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THE
REPORTS

*Made for the Year 1858 to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies;
in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British
Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE
OF
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1858.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
EASTERN COLONIES;
MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1860.

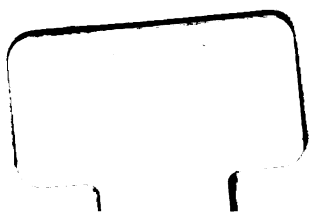


LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1860.

[Price 1s. 6d.]

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1860.

SCHEDULE.

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NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

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CANADA.

No. 1.

CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir EDMUND W. HEAD, Bart.
to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

No. 102.

Government House, Toronto, C. W.,
August 29, 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

IN my Despatch of August 30, 1858, No. 118, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1857, I made use of the following words:—

“Still I believe that substantially the resources of the country are unimpaired, and that its tendency to advance will overcome the depression which now weighs us down.”

The progress of Canada since that Despatch was written has shown me I had estimated correctly the nature of the depression under which we suffered. Slowly and gradually, the prosperity of the country has been reviving, and the abundance of the present harvest will do much to complete its recovery.

2. It is estimated that the produce of winter and spring wheat for 1857 and 1858 was as follows:

1857.	Winter wheat, per acre	-	-	-	20 Bushels.
„	Spring „ „	-	-	-	12 „
1858.	Winter „ „	-	-	-	11½ „
„	Spring „ „	-	-	-	13½ „

With regard to the latter year, the Minister of Agriculture in his last report expresses himself in these words:—

“Taking the usual average of winter wheat at 18 bushels per acre, the deficiency of this year’s crop is about 36 per cent.; and taking the spring wheat at 16 bushels per acre, the deficiency will be about 16 per cent.”

This falling off in our produce, added to the unnatural inflation of credit which preceded the monetary crisis, will long make its effects felt. Many a man who thought himself possessed of 30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.*, and lived and speculated accordingly, suddenly found that the land indeed which was supposed to be worth that sum was there, but that such land had become utterly unsaleable at any price. Others, who had actually sold land or houses at a high rate, and had calculated on being paid by instalments, spread over perhaps ten years, suddenly found that the purchaser did not possess a farthing to pay the next instalment, and that neither he himself nor his debtor could obtain discount or credit at any bank in the Province or the United States. All plans of investment and engagements made with a view to future profit were thus deranged. In the same manner, persons relying on the interest of mortgages for income were obliged to postpone indefinitely their chance of obtaining payment. If they foreclosed they obtained only that which could not be turned into money at the moment, and they had to defray the expense of the legal proceedings.

3. All this reacted on trade; shop bills remained unpaid, and goods lay unsold on the hands of the importer, who was bound to meet his bills in England or in the United States. As a matter of course, importations fell off, and commerce was paralyzed.

4. One beneficial effect will no doubt follow from this painful process. Men will learn, for the time at least, to estimate more truly the real amount of what they possess. Land speculation had become so successful that there was no upward limit to the nominal price offered for real property. Men reckoned on this nominal price as if it had been the true value, and regulated their expenditure accordingly. They have been undeceived, and it is to be hoped that the estimate they will now form of their own wealth will be more consistent with the truth and the circumstances of the country.

It followed necessarily that this derangement in private affairs reacted also on the public revenue of the Province. If there were no buyers the merchants ceased to import, and customs duties decreased in proportion. The falling off in our revenue in 1858, as compared with 1857, is sufficiently shown by the fact that in the March quarter of the latter year the value of goods imported was no less than \$6,046,046, and the duty collected thereon amounted to \$726,699, whilst in the corresponding quarter of 1858

these sums suddenly fell to \$3,612,376 and \$428,870 respectively. In the March quarter of this year, on the other hand (1859), the value of imported goods entered has been \$5,730,691, and the duty levied has produced \$799,116.

CANADA.

5. The large rate of duties now levied is in itself a subject of great regret; but increased taxation became necessary in order to meet our engagements to the Provincial creditors. No one is more convinced than I am of the inexpediency of high duties, and of the fallacy of protection, but I cannot undertake to infuse my own opinions suddenly or completely into the population of the Colony. It must be remembered, too, that the tide of conviction in favour of free trade took some time to set in fully in the mind of the English Parliament itself, and allowances must be made for our close contact with the United States, where a very different theory, unfortunately for all parties, continues to prevail. Under a free Government, in which a Provincial Parliament vote the supplies, the taxes must be levied in the manner which the representatives of the people believe to be the best. It may be that direct taxation would be far less injurious to Canada than the prevent revenue derived from Customs' duties; but whether this be so or not, no such system can be adopted until the convictions of the people at large shall have acquiesced in its enforcement. Yet in the meantime revenue must be raised, and although the manufacturers of England may complain of the tariff, the people of Canada are the first persons to be consulted thereon.

6. With regard, however, to our financial position, the fact is, that the country, like many individuals, has been spending more than it could afford. The whole of the Grand Trunk Railway, from St. Thomas's in Lower Canada to Sarnia, Canada West, will shortly have been made, in the space of six years. Other railways and public works too have had to be constructed and kept up at the same time; and an outlay of this kind, which ought perhaps, in prudence, to have been spread over many years, has been brought to bear with its full weight on the resources of the Colony within a very limited period. All this expenditure is not the result of recent measures, but of steps taken and engagements formed long ago. Now, without justifying or defending all the money votes of the Canadian Parliament, the real pressure on the ways and means of the Province arises from the interest on this debt. We are at this moment in the position of a man who has borrowed money largely to improve his estates by drainage and buildings, but who has not yet received any increased rent in consideration of such outlay. He must pay the interest on the sums he has borrowed, and must struggle on, as he best may, until the improvement of the soil begins to tell on his receipts.

The report of the Minister of Finance will supply your Grace with full information on the present condition of our revenue.

7. The lake trade with Europe, through the canals, continues to develop itself, if the following table extracted from a Detroit paper is to be trusted:—

Progress of the Through Trade.

The Detroit Advertiser gives the following table of the relative progress of the trade of the Lake Ports with Liverpool and other places across the Atlantic:—

1856.					
Vessel.		Cargo.		Destination.	
Schooner	Dean Richmond	-	-	Wheat	- - - Liverpool.
1857.					
Bark	C. J. Kershaw	-	-	Staves	- - - Liverpool.
Schooner	Madeira Pet	-	-	Hides and staves	- - - Liverpool.
1858.					
Bark	H. E. Howe	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - London.
"	D. C. Pierce	-	-	Staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	E. S. Adams	-	-	Lumber	- - - Liverpool.
"	C. J. Kershaw	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - Liverpool.
Brig	Black Hawk	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - Liverpool.
Schooner	Chieftain	-	-	Staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	Colonel Cook	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	R. H. Hartman	-	-	Staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	R. B. Sexton	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - London.
"	Correspondent	-	-	Wheat	- - - Liverpool.
"	John F. Warner	-	-	Staves	- - - Greenock.
"	C. Reeve	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	Harvest	-	-	Lumber and staves	- - - Hamburg.

REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT

CANADA.

		1859.			
Bark	D. C. Pierce	-	-	Staves	- - - Liverpool.
"	Masillon	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	W. S. Pierson	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	Alleis	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Cork.
Brig	J. G. Deshler	-	-	Staves	- Undecided.
"	Caroline	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	Black Hawk	-	-	Staves	- Undecided.
Schooner	R. G. Harman	-	-	Staves	- Liverpool.
"	Jno. F. Warner	-	-	Staves	- Liverpool.
"	Gold Hunter	-	-	Staves	- Cork.
"	G. D. Donsman	-	-	Staves	- London.
"	Valeria	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	Vanguard	-	-	Staves	- Liverpool.
"	Grand Turk	-	-	Lumber	- Hamburg.
"	St. Helena	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Cork.
"	Chieftain	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Undecided.
"	C. H. Walker	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	M. S. Scott	-	-	Lumber	- Hamburg.
"	Eveline Bates	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.
"	Hugh Barclay	-	-	Staves	- London.
"	Republican	-	-	Lumber and staves	- Liverpool.

The following table gives the amount of the different articles thus exported during each year. The Table is not perfectly accurate, only approximately so, as it is impossible at the present time to obtain the correct figures:—

		1856.			
Wheat, bushels	- - -	-	-	-	15,000
		1857.			
Hides, No.	- - -	-	-	-	3,000
Staves, No.	- - -	-	-	-	120,000
		1858.			
Wheat, bushels	- - -	-	-	-	12,000
Lumber, feet	- - -	-	-	-	575,000
Staves, No.	- - -	-	-	-	700,000
		1859.			
Lumber, feet	- - -	-	-	-	1,100,000
Staves, No. (West India Standard)	- - -	-	-	-	2,000,000

In addition to the above shipments to Europe, we notice the following vessels have also cleared for the different ports loaded with lumber:—

		1858.			
Vessel.		Where loaded.		Destination.	
Bark Pamela Flood	-	Green Bay	-	W. Indies.	
		1859.			
Brig Sultan	-	Buffalo	-	New York.	
Schooner Clifton	-	Buffalo	-	Richmond.	
" Indus	-	Milwaukee	-	New York.	
" Adda	-	St. Joseph	-	Providence.	
" Metropolitan	-	Buffalo	-	New York.	

8. On the other hand, the emigration of 1858 was small as compared with that of any preceding year. It is fortunate, perhaps, that it was so, as the pecuniary embarrassment and temporary want of capital in the Province has necessarily left many without work who were ready and willing to avail themselves of any reasonable offer. Australia and the Western prairies absorb a very large portion of the emigrants who would at one time have looked to Canada as their future home. The following table will give full information as to the emigration of the several years since 1829:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NUMBER of EMIGRANTS ARRIVED at the PORT of QUEBEC since the Year 1829, inclusive:—

	1829 to 1833.	1834 to 1838.	1839 to 1843.	1844 to 1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
England - -	43,386	28,561	30,791	60,458	8,980	9,887	9,677	9,276	9,585	18,175	6,754	10,353	15,471	6,441
Ireland - -	102,266	54,904	74,981	112,192	23,126	17,976	22,381	15,983	14,417	16,165	4,106	1,688	2,016	1,153
Scotland - -	20,143	11,061	16,311	12,767	4,984	2,879	7,042	5,477	4,745	6,446	4,859	2,794	3,218	1,424
Continent of Europe - -	15	485	—	9,728	436	849	870	7,256	7,456	11,537	4,864	7,343	11,368	3,578
Lower Provinces	1,889	1,346	1,777	1,219	968	701	1,106	1,184	496	857	691	261	24	214
	167,699	96,357	123,816	196,359	38,494	32,292	41,076	39,176	36,699	53,183	21,274	22,439	32,097	12,810
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	913,815

A. C. BUCHANAN,
Chief Agent.

Emigration Department,
Quebec, 31st December, 1858.

9. The Indians have lately surrendered to the Provincial Government large tracts of land on Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The portion in the neighbourhood of the Sault St. Marie will be sold without delay at a moderate rate to *bonâ fide* settlers, and a great step will thus be made in the progress of civilization towards the north-west boundary of Canada.

10. Great credit is, in my opinion, due to my secretary, Mr. Pennefather, the Superintendent General of Indian affairs, for his success in negotiating with the Indians on these upper lakes. One or two previous attempts to obtain a surrender of land from them had failed.

11. There is one fact connected with the social state of Upper Canada which I notice with great regret, and that is, the very large number of capital convictions for murder and crimes of violence which have taken place in the course of the last year. About four months ago no less than seven persons were in this section of the Province lying at one time under sentence of death for murder. I have felt it my duty in almost every case which has recently occurred to leave the law to take its course. In one instance, at Toronto, I did so most reluctantly, from the youth of the criminal; but the safety of society seemed to require that examples should be made.

12. This case was one of a young man named Fleming, who stabbed another person in the street without apparent provocation of any kind. The crime was owing, no doubt, to the evil habit of carrying bowie knives or concealed weapons of some kind; a practice which the legislature, by an Act of last session, have attempted to check by direct legislation. I doubt much the possibility of so acting on this practice, however desirable it may be to do so. According to my belief, the real security for society depends on making the man who uses his revolver or his bowie knife abide by the consequences of his own act, be they what they may. If we desire to go further, nothing short of an inquisitorial police can effectually hinder this foolish custom of carrying such weapons, which comes to us from our neighbours in the Western States.

13. Another most atrocious case of poisoning was that of Dr. King, who was executed for the murder of his wife. This case was remarkable, from its extreme and deliberate cruelty, and on account of the fact that the criminal was brought back from the United States, not by any action or legal process on the part of the Canadian authorities, but by the energy of private vengeance, and the determination of the murdered woman's brother. This young man partly, as it appeared, by terror, and partly by the aid of some officer of the United States police whom he got to help him, succeeded in getting the criminal across the lake, though the latter was perfectly aware of the absence of any authority to apprehend him. When he was in Canada he was necessarily dealt with according to law, and was executed at Cobourg, confessing his guilt.

14. Tyler's case is of a different character, and has already received so much consideration from Her Majesty's Government as to require no notice here, especially as the proceedings in Michigan are still pending, and the correspondence with the United States Government is not yet closed.

15. I ought to call attention to the fact that the Militia Act was last year made permanent instead of temporary. I regret, however, to say, that the state of the finances caused the Provincial Parliament to reduce the sums allowed for the drill of the volunteer troops, companies and batteries of artillery, as well as some other portions of the establishment. Still the main organization of the force is left untouched, and some improvements of detail have been introduced into the Act.

16. The reports on the subject of education which accompany the Blue Book will show that great efforts in this important matter have continued to be made. The erection of a new building for the University of Toronto and University College will give increased importance to this institution.

17. The Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands has been most diligent in his endeavours to improve the system on which that department is conducted, and he has taken steps to check, in some degree the abuses connected with squatting, and with the loose management of some of the local agents.

18. The legislature last session re-imposed on newspapers carried by post a moderate rate of postage. Canadian newspapers had been since the year 1855 carried free, and the revival of newspaper postage has necessarily caused some outcry. A small payment, however, of this kind is not to be considered as a tax; it is in fact a reasonable charge for service rendered by the Government. Whether it was wise originally to abolish it is another question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

NOVA
SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[The annual Report for 1858 has not been received from the Province of Nova Scotia.]

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor the Hon. J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON
to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 62.)

Government House, Fredericton,

MY LORD DUKE,

New Brunswick, December 28, 1859.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace herein enclosed the Blue Book in duplicate of this Province for (1858) the last year. I have also the honour to forward to your Grace printed copies of several statistical returns and departmental reports, which, when taken in conjunction with the Blue Book returns, will, I hope, supply any deficiencies in the last-mentioned returns.

2. Before I submit to your Grace any remarks explanatory of or supplemental to these documents, I wish to refer shortly to events which, although they did not occur in the year 1858, necessarily affected the condition of the Province during that year.

3. It will be remembered that in the autumn of the preceding year (1857) a monetary and commercial crisis occurred, which for intensity and extent, while it lasted, was almost unparalleled.

This crisis was probably more severely felt in the United States (where it originated) than in any other part of the world, and the character, as well as the extent, of the trade between this Province and the United States necessarily increased the pressure upon the mercantile community here.

4. Moreover, the fact that in this Province, as in the other British North American Provinces, the circulating medium consists of bank notes, payable indeed upon demand, but for the redemption of which, in the event of a sudden panic, the supply of bullion in the Province would, of course, be insufficient, was in the then existing state of the money market a cause for well-grounded alarm.

Every possible precaution, however, which the Government could adopt for maintaining confidence and upholding the public credit was taken. Some bullion was imported from England; and while it was publicly notified that the Government would neither receive nor offer in payment of claims on the Treasury any notes which were not redeemable in specie on presentation, care was taken to avoid, so far as it could be avoided consistently with an adherence by the Government to the above-mentioned notification, any step which might increase the pressure elsewhere. And it is a gratifying fact that during the whole of the crisis the payments from the Treasury continued to be made as usual without the slightest irregularity, and although at the same time the deposits in the Savings Banks amounted to nearly 90,000*l.* there was not the slightest appearance of a run on any one of these banks, or any symptom of distrust either in the determination or in the ability of the Government to meet their liabilities.

5. And although the depressed condition of some of the principal branches of the trade of the Province during the year 1857 had been a subject of regret, it is probable that the injurious effects of the crisis, when it occurred, were thereby decreased. While, therefore, in common with every other community dependent in any degree upon trade, the inhabitants of the Province suffered severely from the effects of the crisis, there was good reason, even at that time, for believing (and this expectation has been realized) that the distress would be but temporary; and the fact that the public credit had been maintained unimpaired under a pressure so sudden and so severe afforded an additional proof of its stability, and of the extent of the resources of the Province.

6. But the disastrous events which occurred at the close of 1857 necessarily exercised a very unfavourable influence on the trade of the Province during (1858) the ensuing year. And accordingly there was a marked decrease in the amount both of the exports from and of the imports into the Province, as well as in the number of new vessels built in the Province (and ship building for the British market is a large branch of business here), and a corresponding diminution in the revenues of the year, which (including all the various items of receipt) exhibited a decrease, when compared with the revenue of (1857) the preceding year, of nearly 30,000*l.* sterling.

The year 1858, then, was one of general depression; but I may be permitted (although the statement does not, strictly speaking, belong to an explanation of the condition of the Province during that year,) to state that during the last financial year, ending 31st October 1859, every branch of the trade of the Province (with the exception, perhaps, of that in ships, in which, however, some improvement has been shown,) has completely recovered; and the revenue of the year ending 31st October 1859 exhibits an increase over that of 1858 even more remarkable than the sudden decrease of revenue in the last-mentioned year.

7. In the course of the last few years large additions have been made to the public debt of the Province. But the increase in the debt is principally to be attributed to the expenditure on the railway now in course of construction between St. John and Shediac. Full information respecting the progress and condition of the railway works up to the close of 1858 is afforded in the report of the Railway Commissioners which accompanies this despatch. It is therefore unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on this subject; but I may state that I have every reason to believe that the whole line from St. John to Shediac will be opened for traffic in the course of 1860, the ensuing year.

8. But although the railway (which is constructed as a Government work) belongs to the Province, and is therefore to be regarded as the consideration on account of which the expense of constructing it, and consequent increase of debt, has been incurred by the Province, there can be no doubt that this increase of debt does render even more necessary than before the exercise of vigilance and economy, as regards the public expenditure. And your Grace will, I am sure, feel satisfaction in learning that the system under which the House of Assembly at large or a committee of the House prepared the estimates of receipts and expenditure (and it was competent for any member of the House to propose a grant of money from the Treasury for any purpose) has at length been exchanged for a better and a safer system. The initiation of money votes has been surrendered by the House of Assembly to the Government, whose duty it is to prepare the estimates, to propose the votes in supply, and to be prepared to show ways and means for meeting these votes, and who, therefore, are now wholly and completely responsible for the public expenditure.

Your Grace is aware that the adoption of this important change in the mode of administering the financial affairs of the Province has been repeatedly urged on the Provincial authorities by successive Secretaries of State, as the only effectual safeguard against financial irregularity; and it was for many years the subject of repeated recommendations by successive Lieutenant-Governors of the Province. It was not, however, until 1856 that this recommendation found any favour with the House of Assembly. In that year, however, a resolution was proposed and carried by a very small majority. (Vide Journals, House of Assembly, 1856, April 2d, pp. 191, 192.)

That a majority of the House of Assembly should at length have sanctioned the principle set forth in the resolution was, without doubt, satisfactory; but the practical adoption of these principles was postponed for a year, and it was of course competent for the House of Assembly, if they should think fit, to alter or to rescind the resolution. I felt, therefore, that, until the resolution had been acted upon, and the advantages consequent upon such action established by the test of experience, it would be premature for me to regard the question as having been permanently and satisfactorily settled.

I have thought it right to enter into these details, in explanation of the reasons which induced me to defer for a time the announcement that the initiation of money votes had been surrendered to the Government. But I am now enabled to state to your Grace, not only that this most important change in the financial system of the Province has been adopted, but also that the benefits which the public derive from the change are so fully and generally appreciated that there is no longer, in my opinion, the slightest ground for fearing a recurrence to the system of former years.

9. I am aware that in the foregoing remarks I have given but a faint outline of the condition of the Province during the year 1858, but the returns which accompany this despatch furnish the details necessary to complete the picture; and in fact the record

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

of the events of 1858 does not present any occurrence, either as regards the commercial or social condition of the Province, of a character so remarkable as to call for special explanation or lengthened observations. But while there are other colonies, the progress of which in population, in commercial prosperity, and in wealth, has been more rapid than that which this Province has of late years exhibited, there can be no doubt either of the extent or value of the resources which New Brunswick possesses in her fertile soil, healthy climate, varied minerals, and in fisheries close to her shores and in her rivers; and these resources are continuously, although perhaps slowly, from the dearth of capital and labour, being developed and turned to good account. Moreover, there is, I am convinced, no portion of the British Empire or in the territories of the United States of which the inhabitants in general have a larger command of the necessaries and cheaper luxuries of life, and I believe that nowhere is a comfortable independence, if not wealth, more certainly the result of honest industry and perseverance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

No. 3.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor DUNDAS to his Grace
the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 25.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
September 3, 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Grace in duplicate the "Blue Book" for the year 1858.

As the statistics of this record refer to a period long antecedent to my arrival on this Island, and the assumption by me of its administration, I shall not attach the detailed report which usually accompanies the "Blue Book" of a colony.

In the absence of this report, I beg to enclose, for your Grace's information, a statement, in the form of a letter to myself, prepared at my request by Mr. Henry Haszard, the late Colonial Secretary, who succeeded Mr. George Coles, on the change of government here in April last. This statement contains a brief summary of what is given in greater detail in the "Blue Book."

I have, &c.

GEORGE DUNDAS,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown,
August 25, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith in duplicate the "Blue Book" of this Island for the year 1858, and in doing so I have taken the liberty of offering some explanatory observations on the most prominent points therein.

In the first place I would beg leave to remark, that from the fact of there not having been any statistical return since the year 1855 a great sameness will exist in the Blue Books of 1857 and 1858 in many particulars.

Secondly, in compiling the Blue Book for 1858 many and serious difficulties presented themselves, viz. :—

First, the Blue Book should have been completed by the former incumbent of the office.

Secondly, no returns appear to have been called for by the late Colonial Secretary, as none were found in the office.

Lastly, the limited time allowed for making it up, and the difficulty and apparent reluctance with which many of the officers gave in their returns; nor could returns in many cases be procured at all from them.

I shall now proceed to remark on the different heads in the same order as they stand in the Blue Book, comparing the year 1858. with that of 1857, placing all amounts in sterling.

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

1. The table of import duties the same as 1857.

2. The table of taxes under statute the same as 1857, but many errors and omissions corrected.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There was a decrease of revenue in 1858, compared with 1857, of 5,442*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

There was a decrease of expenditure, compared with 1857, of 3,502*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The decrease of revenue is principally to be accounted for by a decrease in the imports of 1858, as compared with 1857, of 72,499*l.*, and during the same year, compared with 1857, there was an increase in the exports of 18,606*l.*

The decrease in the expenditure of 1858, compared with 1857, is shown in the comparative yearly statements in the Blue Book, in the amounts expended on roads, bridges, wharves, education, agriculture, and the mail service.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st January 1859 was 26,565*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* This amount, compared with the Financial Statement as made up in the Blue Book of 1857 to the 31st January 1858, shows a very striking difference, as by the latter statement there appeared a balance against the Colony only of 161*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, credit being taken for—

	£	s.	d.
6,297 acres of Crown lands, at 3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> per acre	-	-	1,049 10 0
45,403 acres of public lands, at 4 <i>s.</i> per acre	-	-	9,080 12 0
Bonds for sales of public lands	-	-	516 18 1
Balances due for public lands bearing interest at 5 per cent.	9,484	9	4

Thus, by placing the above amounts to the credit of the Colony, the debt was apparently reduced to the above-named sum of 161*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*

I have declined taking the lands and securities into account for the following reasons:—

On taking the yearly average receipts and expenditure (as shown in the Blue Book under the head of Public Debt) in connexion with the Crown and public lands since the operation of the Land Purchase Act, I find there has been on an average only the sum of 254*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the Colony, and this sum is principally derived from the Crown lands. Nor is this average likely to increase, when it is taken into consideration that the best lands, and those most eligible for settlement, have been already disposed of, and the balance unsold is every year diminishing.

Military Posts and Works.

In consequence of the troops having been withdrawn from the Colony in the year 1854, and the removal of the ordnance and nearly all the military stores to Halifax, the Colony has been left in a completely defenceless state, both from within and without, from its exposed position being surrounded by water, and its very limited resources.

Political Franchise.

The general election, held in June 1858, being the first election held under the new Act 19 Vict. Thirty members of Assembly were elected, being an increase of six. The number of persons who recorded their votes was 13,968, being an increase of 3,326 since the election of 1854, or about thirty per cent., thus giving a representative to every 2,500 souls of all ages and sexes, or a representative to every 465 electors. The qualification for members is a freehold or leasehold of the value of 50*l.* or upwards, over and above all just debts.

The elective franchise is all but universal; any male person, being a British subject, between the ages of 21 and 60 years, and who has resided in the town or electoral district for twelve months, and who is liable to perform statute labour, is entitled to vote; any male person, as before, who is in the possession of a freehold, or leasehold of the yearly value of forty shillings, is entitled to vote; any person holding or possessing property in any or all of the electoral districts throughout the Island may vote in any or all of them. The system of simultaneous polling has been successfully adopted.

PRINCE
EDWARD
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Officers of Government.

The Attorney General, the Honourable Joseph Hensley, resigned his seat in the Legislative Council prior to the election in June last, and offered for the representation of the third electoral district of King's County, where he was rejected, and thereupon he resigned his seat in the Executive Council and the office of Attorney General.

The Registrar of Deeds, the Honourable Robert Mooney, was also rejected at the election in June 1858, for the third electoral division of Queen's County, whereupon he also resigned his seat in the Executive, and the office of Registrar of Deeds.

The Honourable Donald Beaton also resigned his seats in the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Ecclesiastical.

The Government of the Colony does not in any way contribute towards the sustentation of any ecclesiastical establishment.

Education.

The system of education under the "Free Education Act" has, by a small tax, placed the means of a common English education within the reach of all, as fully one third of the whole revenue of the Colony is expended on that department. The salary paid to teachers generally being only 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, but quite as much as the present resources of the Colony will admit of, it necessarily follows that the attainments of the teachers are not as good as could be wished. It is also desirable that the character of the present Academy should be raised to that of a Collegiate School, as that institution has retrograded instead of having advanced.

Paper Currency.

The estimated amount of paper currency in circulation during the year 1858, compared with 1857, is less by 53,933*l.*, the principal difference being in the estimated amount of the notes in circulation of the British North American colonies, being 45,000*l.*, there can be no doubt that the estimate for 1857 was far in excess, and it is more than probable that the estimate for 1858 rather exceeds than otherwise the actual amount in circulation. The remaining sum is mostly made up by the difference in the amount of bank paper in circulation.

Agriculture.

There not having been any statistical return since the year 1855, the Blue Book of 1858 under this head is the same as that of 1857; but I may remark, that agriculture and the breeding and importation of improved stock are making rapid progress, and have been a good deal fostered by the legislature, and it cannot be doubted that the largest quantity of produce ever returned to the agriculturists in the Colony was that of 1858.

Fisheries.

This branch of business was prosecuted with more energy and success during the year 1858 than formerly. It has been carried on principally by Americans who have settled in the Colony.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

His Excellency George Dundas, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. HASZARD.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.
—
No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to his Grace the Duke of
NEWCASTLE.

(No. 73.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Newfoundland, September 26, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the annual "Blue Book" for this colony. I do not think it necessary at present to offer any further observations relative to Newfoundland, further than that the inhabitants for the last year have been contented, and that the fisheries comparatively have been an average.

2. Cod fish, seal oil, cod oil, and seal skins are the staple produce, and it is satisfactory to find that the exported values of these articles have been progressively increasing, as well as the imports and tonnage.

3. On an average for the last seven years I find the value of

Cod fish exported, was	-	-	-	£723,980
Value of Cod and Seal Oil	-	-	-	377,410
Seal Skins	-	-	-	82,047
				<hr/>
				£1,183,437

This is exclusive of the produce exported from the Labrador and St. George's Bay, which cannot be estimated at less than 325,000*l.*, and all this large value is the produce of the sea adjoining the coast of this island.

4. Although Labrador is a Dependency of Newfoundland, there are no custom houses there, and, consequently, British and American subjects who prosecute the fishery pay nothing on dutiable articles. This is a strange anomaly, which requires correction; the British residents there say there can be no taxation without representation. I see no objection to their being represented in the Legislature, and a few magistrates be settled there; but this, and many other things will require time, and the consideration of the Legislature to be placed on a proper and equitable footing, when the fishery question is settled.

5. It is well known that Her Majesty's Government recently appointed a mixed commission to inquire into the practice which has prevailed here relative to existing treaties, the French Government having intimated that they were anxious to abide by these treaties, to which Her Majesty's Government had no objection, and proposed that a mixed commission should be appointed, two from each nation, to which the Government of France acceded, and, on their part, named the Marquis de Montaignac and Count Gobineau, while Captain Dunlop, of H.M.S. "Tartar," senior officer on this station, and the Honourable Mr. Kent, the Colonial Secretary here, were named on the part of the British Government. These commissioners terminated their labours the other day. I am not aware of the evidence which they have got, or the conclusions they have arrived at; but I trust the result will be such as to enable Her Majesty's Government to bring this question to an amicable and satisfactory settlement, finally and for ever, which, if accomplished, cannot fail to promote the interests of all classes in Newfoundland.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BANNERMAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to the
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.
(No. 70.)

MY LORD,

Bermuda, 12th July 1859.

I HEREWITH have the honour to forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies
the Blue Book for the year 1858.

The circumstance of my having only within the last few weeks assumed the Government
of these Islands will, I trust, be accepted as a sufficient excuse for not offering any
remarks thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. S. HEMPHILL,
Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA
LEONE.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
16th April 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the first copy of the Blue Book of this Colony for
the year ended 31st December 1858.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Hon.
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 24.)

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
13th April 1859.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for the
year 1858.

2. I have dwelt so fully in six preceding "Annual Reports," touching the statistics, resources, internal economy, and minute details of "Her Majesty's Settlements in the River Gambia," that slender material remains for a Despatch save a brief summary of last year's proceedings.

3. The favourable prognostications I have ventured to offer from year to year, since 1853, of a steady progressive increase in the commerce of these settlements, and the proportionate prosperity of the revenue, have proved not vain or visionary speculations, but sound and legitimate observations, confirmed by practical results. (*Vide* Table No. 1.)

4. From the above table it appears the total revenue for four years amounted to 65,081*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, or an average yearly revenue of 16,270*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*

5. Deducting the receipts in aid of the general revenue from 1855 to 1858, 16,446*l.* 6*s.* from the gross amount, a colonial revenue of 48,635*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* remains for four years, or 21,144*l.* over and above the colonial revenue for the same number of years, from 1848 to 1851.

6. Nor has the opening of 1859 dawned less auspiciously. The quarter ended 31st March gave a general revenue of 5,463*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*; true, the first quarter embraces the "Annual Licences," but deducting these (717*l.*), and also "Receipts in Aid of the Revenue," 1,557*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, a creditable balance is left in favour of the colonial revenue the return of the colonial treasurer showing 3,625*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* remaining in the chest.

7. The commercial world at large, and especially the several branches connected with France and the United States, were sorely tried, and the stability of their firms severely tested in the monetary crisis of 1857.

8. Considering that the shipping interests of France with Gambia numbers 12,422 tons, or nearly double the tonnage from Great Britain, and that the United States furnish 3,729 tons, or equal to two thirds from the mother country, a very large and widely diffused amount of commercial property is necessarily at stake in the two foreign countries,

Still the Gambia merchants resolutely and successfully weathered the storm, and the revenue of the panic season was equal to the preceding years.

9. I cherish the hope that the same bright prospects are still in store, and will be fully realized by the speculative, energetic, enterprising merchants of "Her Majesty's Settlements on the River Gambia."

10. The second Table exhibits the several salaries drawn from the Imperial Treasury in 1853 and in 1858, amounting in the former year to 3,330*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, decreasing in the latter to 2,230*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, or 1,100*l.* in favour of the Imperial Treasury. (*Vide* Table No. 2.)

11. The third Table is a return of the civil and other establishments, paid from the colonial treasury of the Gambia in 1858. (*Vide* Table No. 3.)

12. The sum of 7,154*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* is a large amount to draw from the chest of a colony that, ten years before, had only 5,391*l.* for its total revenue; and therefore I may be permitted to freely and unreservedly reiterate, sound practical proofs are afforded of progressive prosperity.

13. The staff of Gambia is equal to, but not one jot more for, the important and onerous duties demanded from every member of it.

14. The salaries, far less than those of the sister colonies, are by no means commensurate to the responsible position, the wear and tear of mind and body, the dangers to be encountered, the maladies engendered in the baneful, if not fatal—I speak from seven years' experience—debilitating climate of Gambia.

15. It is not sufficient for a public officer to maintain the character, caste, and responsibility of the appointment a gracious Queen has been pleased to confer upon him; he must recollect his life is fleeting, and that a premature old age may shatter his frame and enervate his energies.

16. Nor is the amount of work to be taken out (to use a homely expression) of a colonial officer's physical powers, exiled from home, country, friends,—in common justice, in common charity, he ought to receive a stipend, not barely enough to eke out existence, but sufficient to enable him, by prudence and economy, to secure some slender provision, when driven by bitter necessity, or stimulated by an honourable zeal, he may be compelled to continue labouring at the very hazard of his existence, or relinquish, for a life of indigence and bodily suffering, an appointment his failing and exhausted powers no longer permit him to retain.

17. I stated in my report on the Blue Book for last year that the rapid increase of the "Ground-nut Trade" had, in a great measure, redeemed Gambia from the almost unprecedented loss sustained by the falling off in the exportation of four important articles, gold, gum, ivory, and teak-wood, diminishing in five years from 45,229*l.* to 12,860*l.*

18. The following Table will shew that the exportation of ground-nuts (*vide* Table No. 4) has advanced 50 per cent. in the last three years, or from 10,868 tons, value 130,496*l.*, in 1856, to 15,705 tons, value 188,464*l.*, in 1858.

19. Table No. 5 is a comparative return of patients treated in the "Victoria" Hospital from 1855 to 1858, inclusive. (*Vide* Table No. 5.)

20. No public building is of more consequence to a community (essentially so in a tropical climate) than a well-constructed, economically-organized hospital.

21. Six hundred patients were treated within four years in the public hospital of Bathurst; a large number, considering the resident population and the peculiar habits of the "Africans," who infinitely prefer suffocating huts, native quacks, and country medicines to well-ventilated wards, a college of physicians, and the most elaborate pharmacopœia Europe could supply.

22. The "Albert" market returned 575*l.* 6*s.* dues in the year 1858, and may be said to afford a tolerable supply for the common wants of life at reasonable terms. Beef at 4*d.* a pound; pork, 5*d.* to 6*d.*; mutton, 6*d.* to 8*d.*; small poultry 6*s.*, large 10*s.* to 20*s.*, ducks 18*s.* to 24*s.* a dozen; turkies, 14*s.* to 28*s.* each.

23. The cultivation of vegetables has gradually increased, and cabbages, turnips, salads, radishes, beet, pumpkins, with various other garden stuffs, are easily procured at moderate prices, considering the great difficulty to be encountered from soil, climate, and the destructive burning "harmattan" or desert winds.

24. A new fish shed is just completed, much to the satisfaction of a numerous class (the lower order) of inhabitants, as fish, with rice, corn, kus-kus, constitute their principal article of sustenance.

25. The fish shed, measuring 83 feet in length by 23 feet 6 inches in breadth and 18 feet in height, under the ridge beam, is formed by a shingle roof supported on twenty neat iron pillars, open all round, and exposed to a free circulation of air.

GAMBIA.

26. Slate slabs, raised on wooden tressels, three feet from an asphalted flooring, regularly cleaned and washed, ensure the fish being preserved fresh and wholesome for use.

27. An active and intelligent clerk of the market collects the dues, regulates the sittings, and, with two constables, preserves order and discipline among the crowd of vendors and buyers—a task of no little responsibility, considering both parties came from various districts, many of uncouth, almost uncivilized tribes; yet even the latter, “the Jolabs,” a wild savage race, the sellers of palm wine, furnished by their industry an item to the colonial revenue of 733*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* duty on palm wine in 1858.

28. And now, in concluding my Report upon Her Majesty’s Settlements in the River Gambia, it appears to me, after upwards of six years’ government of that interesting and rising colony, having made many expeditions up several rivers to various islands, and among tribes hitherto unvisited by, nay almost unknown to, Europeans, it appears to me that the sound sterling policy of the British Government, its high and holy calling, is, not to seek an undue increase of revenue, and extend protection to a few European residents and a scanty population living under its flag at Gambia, but to diffuse freely, fully, unrestrictedly, far and wide, agriculture, commerce, civilization, religion, peace, and good-will among tribes, countries, nations, in which the British monarchy and the British people have so long exhibited a profound interest, and unflinchingly, untiringly struggled, regardless of the unlimited expenditure of treasure and, far more valuable, the vast sacrifice of gallant lives, to redeem millions of our fellow beings from centuries of moral bondage, and rescue them from the cloud of mental darkness which, for some great and wise purpose, still so mysteriously hovers over them.

I have, &c.

L. SMYTH O’CONNOR,
Governor.

* N.B.—The Bijuga Islands of “Kanaback” and “Orango” are inhabited by a wild, ferocious race, said to be sprung from the terrible “Jiages” or “Jagas.” The last island had never been visited by Europeans, or the channel surveyed, until my expedition in 1857. The River Kittafny was also quite unknown.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

17

No. 1.—COMPARATIVE RETURNS of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the Years from 1855 to 1858 inclusive.

GAMBIA.

REVENUE.

	1855.			1856.			1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CUSTOMS.												
Duties on Goods imported in British Ships.	1,761	7	5	2,280	7	3	2,084	5	6	2,459	4	6
Do. Foreign do. -	1,174	4	1	1,144	8	5	1,123	7	6	1,069	7	3
Extra Duty on Wines and Spirits	2,513	18	0	2,960	11	9	2,155	10	8	1,411	1	1
Do. Tobacco -	315	2	1	500	4	11	484	14	1	422	10	0
Additional Extra do. on Spirits	54	15	0	453	3	0	356	12	5	366	17	6
Do. Tobacco -	128	9	9	500	6	2	484	14	2	422	10	0
Pilotage -	570	0	0	547	15	0	612	0	0	629	15	0
Tonnage Dues -	1,176	16	0	1,068	19	0	1,377	15	0	1,496	7	0
Additional Tonnage Dues -	689	16	3	672	0	9	788	5	0	794	19	6
Quarantine Dues -	183	15	0	138	12	0	171	2	0	171	3	0
Palm Wine Duty -	535	17	2	397	9	0	554	2	9	723	10	9
Auction Duty -	28	10	9	9	12	9	17	13	10	112	6	1
Seizures, Crown's Share of -	14	6	11	3	2	6	13	3	4	—	—	—
Surcharges -	10	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	—	—	—
Fines, &c. -	—	—	—	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LICENCES.												
Sale of Spirits, &c. wholesale -	460	0	0	30	0	0	60	0	0	40	0	0
Do. retail -	—	—	—	600	0	0	600	0	0	540	0	0
Do. McCarthy's Island -	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0	0
Auctioneers -	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
Hawkers -	6	0	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0
Butchers -	12	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RENTS, exclusive of LANDS.												
Market Dues, Bathurst -	162	4	7	550	17	11	532	6	3	575	6	0
Do. McCarthy's Island -	8	12	10	7	4	9	21	6	0	40	10	7
Oyster Creek Ferry Tolls -	106	8	2	85	2	10	47	7	10	—	—	—
Fines, Forfeitures, &c. -	223	2	7	158	17	9	166	11	3	180	5	7
Fees of Office -	13	1	5	16	8	1	6	17	5	3	3	6
Quit Rents -	123	7	6	107	12	6	163	5	0	118	2	6
Miscellaneous Receipts -	400	4	11	79	1	1	5	11	8	89	9	3
Sale of Government Property -	5	6	2	26	9	0	17	14	6	14	11	9
Government Steamer -	262	9	2	357	19	3	319	13	3	372	3	9
Receipts in Aid of Revenue -	4,061	4	3	4,548	10	1	4,105	15	10	3,730	15	10
Reimbursements in Aid -	108	7	4	58	2	10	104	16	7	80	8	0
Totals -	15,352	17	4	17,374	5	3	16,434	8	10	15,920	8	5

EXPENDITURE.

	1855.			1856.			1857.			1858.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries Fixed Establishment -	7,690	2	6	7,819	16	10½	8,010	14	10	8,248	0	5
Do. Provisional and Temporary	1,530	3	0	1,131	8	1½	1,553	14	7	1,885	6	6
Allowances -	482	17	9	421	19	10	461	6	0	460	4	1
Office Contingencies -	225	5	10	236	6	10	275	7	3	190	11	10
Total Establishments -	9,928	9	1	9,609	11	8	10,301	2	8	10,784	2	10
Pensions, Gratuities, &c. -	4	0	0	188	17	5	584	10	0	188	5	3
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishment.	288	5	5	134	0	3	395	0	8	43	10	5
Administration of Justice do. -	91	3	2	111	17	6	76	5	0	38	18	4
Charitable Allowances -	16	9	—	8	11	7	17	10	6	6	0	0
Education exclusive of Establishment -	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
Hospitals do. -	274	7	10	86	11	2	201	18	2	145	17	10
Police and Gaols do. -	484	9	1	304	7	1	443	11	0	473	7	3
Rent -	305	14	0	259	4	0	315	4	0	409	4	0
Transport -	83	18	3	1	7	6	34	8	0	—	—	—
Works and Buildings -	1,376	3	3	1,321	16	7	1,703	17	11	311	3	9
Roads, Streets, and Bridges -	255	19	11	53	14	0	206	16	7	451	5	9
Miscellaneous Services -	6	6	3	62	16	11	30	17	3	24	8	7
Government Vessels exclusive of Establishment.	1,135	10	5	896	17	8	1,375	11	11	1,553	2	10
Aborigines -	429	7	5	517	18	7	523	11	11	465	5	9
Drawbacks and Refunds -	67	5	3	179	2	10	386	7	0	30	0	1
Special Services -	439	0	6	260	12	7	1,040	17	10	472	1	3
Totals -	15,270	16	7	14,097	7	4	17,737	10	5	15,546	13	11

GAMBIA.

No.2.—RETURN of Civil and other Establishments at Gambia paid from the Imperial Treasury in 1853.

Establishments.	Salaries paid from the Imperial Treasury.	Allowances paid by the Colony.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor - - - - -	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Chief Justice - - - - -	800 0 0	—	800 0 0
Colonial Secretary - - - - -	600 0 0	—	600 0 0
Queen's Advocate - - - - -	400 0 0	—	400 0 0
Colonial Chaplain - - - - -	400 0 0	41 1 3	441 1 3
Commander McCarthy's Island - - - - -	130 15 10	—	130 15 10
Totals £	3,330 15 10	241 1 3	3,571 17 1

RETURN of Civil and other Establishments at Gambia paid from the Imperial Treasury in 1858.

Establishments.	Salaries paid from the Imperial Treasury.	Allowances paid by the Colony.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor - - - - -	1,000 0 0	200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Chief Justice - - - - -	800 0 0	—	800 0 0
Colonial Secretary - - - - -	300 0 0	—	300 0 0
Queen's Advocate - - - - -	—	—	—
Colonian Chaplain - - - - -	—	41 1 3	41 1 3
Commander McCarthy's Island - - - - -	130 15 10	—	130 15 10
Totals	2,230 15 10	241 1 3	2,471 17 1

Total Salaries paid from Imperial Treasury 1853 - - - - - 3,330 15 10
do. do. do. 1858 - - - - - 2,230 15 10

Decrease in Payments from Imperial Treasury - - - - - 1,100 0 0

No. 3.—RETURN of the Civil and other Establishments paid from the Colonial Treasury of Gambia in 1858.

Establishments.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor - - - - -	—	200 0 0	200 0 0
Colonial Secretary - - - - -	806 19 0	—	806 19 0
Clerk of Councils - - - - -	100 0 0	—	100 0 0
Colonial Engineer - - - - -	498 5 0	41 1 3	539 6 3
Collector of Customs - - - - -	1,038 6 1	33 15 4	1,072 1 5
Ferries - - - - -	76 16 0	—	76 16 0
Pilotage - - - - -	343 14 6	—	343 14 6
Clerk of Market - - - - -	111 5 0	—	111 5 0
Superintendent of Quarantine - - - - -	40 19 6	—	40 19 6
Registrar of Births, Deaths, &c. - - - - -	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Colonial Auditor - - - - -	200 0 0	—	200 0 0
Collector of Rates - - - - -	40 0 0	—	40 0 0
Judicial Establishment - - - - -	567 4 0	—	567 4 0
Ecclesiastical do. - - - - -	425 0 0	41 1 3	466 1 3
Medical do. - - - - -	741 5 0	41 1 3	782 6 3
Police and Gaols - - - - -	1,386 19 6	—	1,386 19 6
Commander McCarthy's Island - - - - -	10 0 0	—	10 0 0
Resident Magistrate, Combo - - - - -	100 0 0	—	100 0 0
Agent General - - - - -	40 0 0	—	40 0 0
Postmaster - - - - -	60 0 0	—	60 0 0
Militia - - - - -	161 0 0	—	161 0 0
Totals -	6,797 13 7	356 19 1	7,154 12 8

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

19

GAMBIA.

No. 4.—RETURN of Ground Nuts exported from Bathurst, Gambia, 1856 to 1858 inclusive.

YEAR.	Great Britain.	France.	United States.	Goree and Senegal.	British West Indies.	Total.	Amount Sterling.
	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	Tons cwt. qr. lbs.	£ s. d.
1856	238 6 1 0	9,456 8 0 0	832 10 0 0	338 9 3 0	Nil.	*10,865 14 0 0	130,496 8 0
1857	869 5 1 0	11,098 16 3 14 100 0 0 0	1,269 5 2 0 37 10 0 0	135 16 1 0	43 8 3 0	13,554 2 2 14	162,649 11 6
1858	1,516 18 3 0	13,122 17 2 14	628 18 0 14	361 13 3 0	75 0 0 0	15,705 8 1 0	188,464 19 0
Totals	2,624 10 1 0	33,778 2 2 0	2,768 3 2 14	835 18 7 0	118 8 3 0	40,125 4 3 14	481,610 18 6

* Memo.—1856. Nine tons exported to Cape de Verds not included.

No. 5.—COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Sick treated in the Colonial Hospital, Bathurst, from 1st January 1855 to the 31st December 1858 inclusive.

YEARS.	Remained from each Year.	Admitted.			Total treated.	Discharged.	Died.			Remained in hospital at end of year.	Proportion of Deaths to Diseases.			Per-centage.			REMARKS.
		Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.			Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.		Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.	Whites.	Blacks.	Paupers.	
1855	—	159	*15	47	221	200	9	3	6	3	1 in 18	1 in 5	1 in 8	5	20	12	{ *Many wounded in the Combo War included in this total.
1856	3	66	10	36	112	92	3	—	14	3	1 in 22	—	1 in 3	4½	—	33	
1857	3	114	5	†33	152	135	4	—	12	1	1 in 23	—	1 in 3	3½	—	33	{ †Many old and exhausted by disease coming to hospital in the last stage for treatment.
1858	1	71	3	39	113	98	4	—	7	4	1 in 18	—	1 in 6	5	—	18	
		410	33	155	598	525	20	3	39	11							

Bathurst, Gambia, }
7th March 1859. }

(Signed) P. KIRTON,
Col. Surgeon.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8 .

COPY of DESPATCH from Acting Governor BIRD to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON,
Bart.

No. 8.

(No. 43.)

SIR,

Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast, July 11, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1858, and I trust the state and prospects of these Settlements as shown therein will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

Enclosure
No. 1.

2. I beg to call your attention to the Colonial Surgeon's report, which has evidently been drawn up with great care and attention by Dr. Clarke, and reflects considerable credit upon that officer. Dr. Clarke has shown how groundless has been the opinion formerly so obstinately maintained that the people of the Gold Coast were quite insensible to the great advantages to be derived from European methods of medical treatment, that they could not be prevailed upon to enter an hospital for medical treatment, and that when it became absolutely necessary that they would not submit to capital operations, even to save their lives. These assertions I consider have been amply refuted, and it is to be hoped are for ever dispelled, for it will be observed, by reference to the Return marked 3, annexed to the Report, that 25 persons voluntarily sought admission to the hospital; and its incorrectness is still further evidenced by the fact that fifty persons have been treated in the Colonial Hospital in the first half-yearly period of the present year, the majority of whom came in of their own accord. With regard to their alleged refusal to submit to operations, I may mention that four persons have had their limbs successfully removed since Dr. Clarke's arrival on this part of the coast. It cannot, however, be denied that it will be a work of time to overcome entirely the scruples and prejudices of the natives to be treated in hospital, but in reality their aversion is not a whit greater than is manifested by the ignorant population of many parts of the United Kingdom.

3. The observations regarding guinea worm, and the native methods of curing dysentery and snake bites, are interesting, and appear valuable.

While examining the remedies used by the native practitioners, Dr. Clarke has discovered that a plant called Etua, and which has been employed for centuries by the natives of these settlements in dysentery, is nearly allied, if not identical, with the Bael or Bela of India. The appearance of the Etua plant is accurately represented in the accompanying drawings which Mrs. Clarke has kindly made. A preparation of the Bael or Bela has lately been introduced into Europe as a remedy for dysentery. I observe in a pamphlet written by Dr. Adolphus of London, that the Bela has been used by the Hindoos as a specific for that disease from time immemorial. The Etua should be viewed as a pledge of the many unknown and valuable products of the soil of these settlements, and I hope will eventually become an article of export.

Enclosure
No. 2.

4. Education is making slow but steady progress. In every country it is a work of time, but amongst barbarians it is the toil of generations. I concur fully with the Rev. W. West, the Wesleyan General Superintendent in these settlements, "That education will never be appreciated by the natives of the interior until it is imparted in their own language." The Basel missionaries in the eastern districts have long since been persuaded of this fact, and have rendered invaluable service to the cause of civilization and Christianity on this coast in having reduced the Otshy and Gâ languages to writing. Outlines and vocabularies of both languages have been published in English; a primer and a hymn-book, as well as translations of Barth's Bible stories, the history of the passion of our Lord, and the four Gospels, have been printed in the Gâ and a translation of Barth's Bible stories in the Otshy. By the returns furnished by the Rev. Chas. W. Locher, it appears the society has stations at Christiansborg, Abokobi, Akropong, Abude, Krobo, and Akim, with several out-stations. I transmit herewith a map of the eastern districts, which the society has had published, and on it you will observe the relative position of their several stations. Mr. Locher remarks, "The children of our schools are, with few exceptions, Christian children. Our principle is

“ to teach them first their own native language, in which parts of the Holy Scriptures
 “ and several schoolbooks are already printed or under the press. Those children who
 “ have acquired a thorough knowledge of their mother tongue are taught the English
 “ language. The catechist training school contains 22 youths of from 16 to 24 years.
 “ They are taught, in the course of four to five years, so as to be able to serve as
 “ catechists and schoolmasters, and after they have proved by a steady life to be fit for
 “ a higher order, they are instructed in Hebrew, Greek, and Theology, and ordained
 “ as native ministers. The census of this year, 1858, shows the following number of
 “ European labourers :—

“ 6 married ordained missionaries -	-	-	12 persons.
“ 4 unmarried do. do. -	-	-	4 ”
“ 3 married } lay brethren -	-	-	{ 6 ”
“ 5 unmarried } -	-	-	{ 5 ”
“ 3 unmarried ladies -	-	-	3 ”

“ Total of Europeans - - 30 persons,

“ with the yearly expenditure of 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* sterling.”

5. There are Government schools at this station, Anamaboe, Amantin, Appollonia, Commenda, Dixcove, and Donassie, which are attended, as the returns in the Blue Books will show, by 318 male and 49 female children. In a former despatch I have pointed out how imperfectly those schools are conducted, and the necessity of having a properly qualified teacher to train up a certain number of native youths as instructors. The colonial chaplain remarks, that, “About the age of 15 the boys are tolerably well
 “ qualified to become under clerks in the merchant stores, and they are generally desirous
 “ of obtaining such employment, with a view of engaging in trade themselves. Industrial
 “ schools would be an important object, for the instruction of some portion of them in
 “ agriculture, and of others in mechanics, but no such establishments exist here, with the
 “ exception of the cultivated ground belonging to the Wesleyans at Beulah; nor is there
 “ a library or reading-room in any of the towns, where youths might carry on mental
 “ improvement. A bookseller's shop is not to be met with on the coast, and even the
 “ commonest articles of stationery are sometimes not to be purchased. The government,
 “ however, take in a few copies of useful periodicals, both of secular intelligence as well
 “ as of a moral tendency, and any respectable parties can have the advantage of perusing
 “ them, by applying either to the chaplain or to the respective commandants, to whose
 “ charge he forwards the works, monthly, for this purpose. The several teachers in the
 “ out-stations send in quarterly returns of the numbers of their scholars, of the routine of
 “ their work in school, and also of such books as the teachers themselves have been
 “ occupied in reading. The commandants are requested to visit the schools from time
 “ to time within their district.”

6. More attention has been paid to agricultural pursuits in this than in former years. The Indian corn has been grown as an article of export, and one or two cargoes of it have been shipped to Europe.

7. The Agricultural Society has been endeavouring to attract the attention of the natives to the advantages they would derive from cultivating the cotton plant, and hopes are entertained of the fibre becoming ere long classed amongst the exports of these settlements.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) H. BIRD,
 Acting Governor.

Enclosure No. 1.

Dr. CLARKE to Acting Colonial Secretary R. D. Ross, Esq.

Medical Report for the year 1858.

Encl. No. 1.

SIR,

Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, May 10, 1859.

IN submitting the annual Medical Reports of the Colonial Hospital of Cape Coast for the information of his Excellency the Acting Governor, I have ventured to make a few remarks upon subjects of a kindred nature having a direct bearing upon the public health.

2. His Excellency will perceive, by referring to the Returns severally annexed, marked 1, 2, 3, 4, that forty-seven persons were treated in the Colonial Hospital last year; and although I am sensible that that number may appear small, it nevertheless is an encouraging fact, because it shows an increase to the extent of three fourths compared with the number of sick under medical treatment in 1857. It is

C 3

(1.)
 (2.)
 (3.)
 (4.)

GOLD COAST. also noteworthy that a fraction more than half of the whole number of the sick treated voluntarily sought admission to the hospital, the remainder being either debtors, refugee slaves, or convicts, as will be seen by examining the annexed Return, marked 3.

(3.)

(1.)

3. An analysis of the yearly Medical Return marked 1 shows forty recoveries and two deaths; but it is proper to state that one man left the hospital before recovery took place, and that one of the refugee slaves escaped therefrom. The majority of the diseases which were treated in the period in question rank under the head of phlegmons, ulcers, and wounds, with affections of uncertain and variable seats. Several of the wounds were severe and dangerous: A boy about ten years of age sustained a punctured wound of the belly, with protrusion of the omentum, by falling from a tree upon a stake. In another instance a child two and a half years of age had the left radial artery wounded near the wrist by falling upon broken glass. In this case the hæmorrhage was repressed with some difficulty; but I am glad to state that the little fellow made a good recovery.

Among the minor operations I may mention, that a large slug deeply imbedded was removed from the external and upper third of the left leg of a man who had been shot three years ago in the riots which then occurred at Cape Coast. A tumour was also removed from between the breasts of a young woman. The diseased structure had originally been a cicatrix raised on the skin by way of ornament. Several young females also applied to have fibro steatomatous growths of one or both lobules of the ear removed; and in all these cases I took away both lobule and tumour. These tumours had been caused by the chronic irritation set up in the lobules by piercing them for the introduction of earrings. Many persons suffering from dry gangrene of the little toe came to the hospital to be operated upon. Dry gangrene, especially of the little toe, I have observed is a disease of rather common occurrence among the natives of the Gold Coast, and from inquiries I have made on the subject I find that it is frequently a sequence of suppressed yaws.

With respect to more important operations, I removed the left leg of a man sent to the hospital from Anamaboe suffering from a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula about the middle third; and I take this opportunity of repeating my conviction that the natives of the Gold Coast do not display more repugnance to submit to operations than people do elsewhere.

4. I regret to state that the means at present of accommodating the sick in hospital is very limited, as will be observed by the annexed Table marked 5, which exhibits the dimensions, cubical contents, means of ventilation, and the proportion of persons each of the wards is capable of accommodating. These calculations are based upon the proposition that upwards of 600 cubic feet of pure air is required to maintain the healthy composition of the blood. This is, however, assuming the lowest standard, as not less than 1,000 cubic feet of air has been recommended by the Inspectors of Prisons in England as essential to health and ventilation. Admitting that the minimum quantity is sufficient, I regret to state that for short periods during the year there was an excess of sick in some of the hospital wards, a circumstance which must occasionally happen until a more suitable and commodious building is provided. The male ward on the basement floor is in reality a large cellar, and the female ward is small, and very indifferently adapted for that purpose. The rest of the basement floor is used as a dispensary, a medical store, a female schoolroom, and a female prison; while the second floor is occupied as my quarters, with the exception of an office and small ward for the reception of Europeans.

(5.)

Under these circumstances I respectfully contend that the design of establishing a well-regulated civil hospital is an impossibility; and I therefore beg to suggest that the whole of the present building be used as an hospital, or, if that cannot be done, that a suitable house be elsewhere obtained until an hospital can be built. Impressed with the great importance of organizing an hospital, I would be guilty of a dereliction of duty if I did not exert every means in my power to attain this most desirable object, not only on humane grounds, but as a powerful means of dispelling the lamentable ignorance which leads the people of this country, when afflicted with disease, to have recourse to the barbarous and debasing influence of the fetish. And I maintain that the establishment of such an institution would exert upon the native mind a most civilizing influence, by showing them the paramount importance which a beneficent government attaches to the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of suffering, on a coast hitherto proverbially remarkable for an utter recklessness on those points. Even viewed on the lowest grounds, I feel satisfied that the principals of the chief trading houses in England, the United and other foreign States, would hail with the greatest satisfaction its organization, and it would assuredly attract shipping to this port, and would correspondingly increase its commercial importance, besides being in strict accord with the long cherished and earnest wish of the Imperial Government, and the recommendation of Commissioner Ord, that civil hospitals should be established under civil medical officers at Cape Coast and at Accra, where native youths could be instructed in the practice of medicine.

Notwithstanding all the imperfections of the Colonial Hospital in its present condition, it has proved of great benefit to the population, and most serviceable to the government, inasmuch as there is not the means of treating sick debtors, refugee slaves, or convicts, either in the gaol of Fort William or Castle Prison, the former being, moreover, half a mile beyond the immediate reach of medical assistance, and it has always been at all times accessible for the admission of debtors and convicts confined in the municipal prison.

5. I am glad to be able to state that in the period comprehended in this Report no epidemic has prevailed. Rumours were current at different times during the year of the appearance of smallpox at various stations, but these statements were greatly exaggerated, and in most instances unfounded. At least I saw no case of smallpox during the year, and I feel satisfied that I should have detected such cases, notwithstanding that the natives do everything in their power to conceal its presence by the immediate removal of the afflicted persons into the bush. I may here mention the remarkable fact, that few persons among the population whom I have had ample opportunities of observing in different parts of the protected territory are marked with smallpox. With regard to vaccination, I regret to state that it failed in every instance in which it was repeatedly tried both by myself and several of the military medical officers. This circumstance in no way weakens my firm belief that vaccination will succeed

on the Gold Coast, for there is unquestionable living evidence of its having formerly succeeded well. At Sierra Leone I have known it fail in hundreds of instances, but ultimately succeed well, and be kept up for many months at a time; and assuredly a similar result will happen in these settlements if the medical officers, instead of being disheartened by repeated failures, are incited to renewed efforts to introduce this inestimable blessing among the natives of the Gold Coast. That nothing may be wanting to secure this object, I beg to suggest that no pains should be spared in charging to the utmost the bone points with lymph which are sent out to this part of the coast, as I feel convinced attention to this apparently trivial circumstance will largely contribute to the success of vaccination here.

6. I now beg to refer to the annexed numerical Return, marked 6, which shows the number of persons who applied for and obtained medical assistance in each month of the year at the dispensary; but lest an erroneous impression might be entertained that the aggregate number noted in this Return represents different and distinct sick persons, I deem it my duty to explain, that the total number is the whole number of applicants in that period as it would be a work of labour and considerable difficulty to distinguish accurately the number of new applicants from those who have been treated for several days consecutively. Several of those treated in the hospital during the year had in the first instance been applicants at the dispensary. A large proportion of those who attended were affected with old standing scrofulous ulcerations of the skin, and these persons had their sores daily dressed, while in several cases their ulcers were caused by caries of the bones, and the reparative process consequently required weeks, sometimes months, for its completion, and not unfrequently they no sooner healed up than they broke out afresh. A very large number of those prescribed for suffered from the most inveterate skin diseases. Scabies, called *kra kra* on this coast, is a common disease, and is very infectious. It is frequent among children, and the slave population are seldom without it, the disease being induced by the poverty of their diet, bad ventilation, and their dirty habits, but nevertheless they do not appear to be much inconvenienced by it. The poorer class of people and slaves also suffer much from *frambœsia* or yaws. Persons affected with *psoriasis palmaria* came occasionally under treatment, and a great many afflicted with herpetic eruptions situated on various parts of the body were constant applicants for relief. In the worst and most intractable forms of skin diseases which I was called upon to treat among the natives I found the solution of the arsenite of potass, by far the most useful medicine. Very many of the applicants suffered from griping pains in the bowels, and considerable numbers from diarrhoea and dysentery.

In former reports I have remarked that the natives are very liable to constipation, consequently there were numerous and constant applications for purgative medicines to obviate this unpleasant condition. Crowds of persons of both sexes may be seen upon the beach at early morn with various medicated decoctions which they blow into the bowels from a bottle-shaped calabash in order to obtain relief. This constipated state of the bowels in my opinion chiefly arises from the unstimulating nature of their diet. A good many persons afflicted with *lepra* applied for escharotics, but in them the disease had taken far too firm a hold of the system, and had reached its advanced stages, for any class of remedies to cure the malady, the joints of the fingers and toes having dropped off, the soles of the feet being perforated by leprous ulcerations, and the features generally disfigured by lobulated tumours. It appeared to me most prevalent among the slave population, many of whom had no owners, and who were obliged to pick up a miserable and uncertain subsistence, without clothing, unless the dirty and scanty rag which hid their nakedness could be so described, and who were housed in dens reeking with filth and redolent of squalor and misery.

Elephantiasis and *lepra* in all its hideous forms prevail. The disease is said to prevail more on the windward than on the leeward part of the coast. The natives suppose it may be induced by drinking excessively of palm wine which has been mixed with the juice of the bamboo; but it may, with much greater reason, be accounted for by an excess of fish diet. With regard to *lepra*, young persons of both sexes, and even infants in arms, were brought to me, in whom it appeared in copper-coloured patches on the breast, between the shoulders, face, or upper extremities, in many cases it being clearly traceable to hereditary taint. The fingers and toes swell greatly before ulceration, after which they drop off, or are "cut," as the natives term it, much pain having been felt in them, generally at night. The feet and ankles become enormously enlarged and deformed. Foul defoedations appear chiefly upon the neck, arms, and legs, the skin of the other parts of the body, although changed in colour, retaining its smoothness. The contrast occasionally seen in this disease from black to a light-brown copper colour is very striking; sometimes little or none of the original colour of the skin remains, a few spots alone indicating its original hue. The ulcers are at first often superficial, appearing as slight abrasions of the cuticle; but a closer inspection will detect a thin foul crust situated upon its edge. The voice in some becomes hoarse, and the throat is tinged with an erisipelatous blush. Should the skin recover its natural colour, the natives consider the disease as cured. It is not considered contagious by the natives, and they do not hesitate to eat from the same dish, and will even sleep on the same mat with persons afflicted with *lepra* or elephantiasis. They believe it to be hereditary. The wretched sufferers themselves almost invariably ascribe it to poison having been thrown upon, or secretly given, them by some witch whose displeasure they had incurred. The distemper, with all its loathsome evils, does not appear to shorten life, for they live a long time, and even attain old age. Lepers intermarry.

The natives are very subject to apthous ulcerations of the mouth, and a spongy and bleeding state of the gums, with looseness of the teeth. This appeared to me to depend upon the wide diffusion of land scurvy, aggravated by uniformity of diet and the depressing influences of the unwholesome condition of their houses aiding the operation of a local miasm. Cases are not rare where there is much bodily wasting, with frequent bloody oozings from the gums, and gangrenous ulcers of the mouth and fauces, with petechial spots on the legs. The habit of taking snuff by the mouth, which is largely practised by both sexes, not only on the Gold Coast, but likewise at the Gambia and Sierra Leone, contributes to erode the gums, besides communicating an offensive odour to the breath. The snuff is placed in the mouth between the gum and the lower lip, or cheeks, the ugly black ridge disfiguring the pretty faces of many of the black and coloured girls. From all these circumstances it may be readily supposed that they suffer quite as much from toothache as Europeans.

GOLD COAST.

The blacks are very subject to ulcerations of the feet, and few of them are free from the marks of former deep-seated ulcerations either on the feet or legs. They manage their sores very badly, washing them far too much, thereby softening the granulations, and otherwise greatly retarding the healing process by their injudicious methods of sprinkling various powders over the face of the ulcer. A few persons labouring under measles were brought to me during the year, but the disease, I am glad to state, did not become epidemic as in 1857.

A very large proportion of those who were treated at the dispensary were afflicted with scrofulous disease, either in the form of ulcerations of the skin, glandular swellings of the neck, or disease of the bones. The cause of its prevalence, I feel assured, is clearly traceable to the crowded, ill-ventilated, and generally foul condition of their houses and sleeping places. The walls of most of their dwellings are formed of clay, which are rarely, if ever, whitewashed. Most of the rooms are miserably small, damp, dark, and badly ventilated, especially those devoted to sleep. In their sleeping places the poorer classes and many persons in better circumstances keep all the dirty clothing not in wear, either about their beds or hanging from the wall, scraps of food and putrid fish being strewed about or collected in corners. The lower rooms open into inner courts, wherein the members of the several families meet, and where they generally cook and eat their food. The houses of the wealthy native gentlemen are well built, commodiously and often elegantly furnished, but few of them have fire-places either in the public rooms or bed rooms, a want which impairs health in a country exposed to heavy night dews and in some wet seasons to heavy falls of rain. The general custom on the Gold Coast is to burn charcoal in clay pots ingeniously made for that purpose, and which are introduced into the public rooms and burnt in the bedrooms when the weather is damp or cold. This practice is not without danger, as on one occasion I was called to render aid to a man whom I found had been asphyxiated by the fumes of charcoal to which he was exposed in a close sleeping room. From inquiries I have made I find that twenty may be safely reckoned the average number of tenants living under one roof in the two-storied houses of Cape Coast, and it often happens that sober, decent people dwell in one apartment, and a drunken man in the next; for I regret to say that drunkenness is a wide-spread vice among the natives, a circumstance chiefly dependant upon the cheapness of the spirits imported from the United States and the Brazils. In these houses the well conducted are too often pestered and annoyed by their disorderly neighbours, and the most violent altercations frequently occur between the members of the different families. On these occasions they seldom come to blows, but content themselves by heartily abusing one another in the foulest language they can lay tongue to. Such quarrels, although they may commence among the male branches of the family, are almost invariably taken up by the female members, when the men cease their angry recriminations, and listen with much complacency to the scolding of their wives and concubines, the contending women rushing up to each other, gesticulating in the most frantic way, screaming furiously, and vociferating in the loudest tones, each of them in this war of words being backed up by mutual friends among the spectators, to whom they constantly appeal to support their vituperations. In this way their children grow up, and become accustomed to the continual recurrence of such scenes, and suffer corresponding neglect, sometimes petted until they become wilful and insufferably perverse, at other times unmercifully beaten, the domestic peace being occasionally disturbed by their mothers' cries when tied up and beaten by their fathers, with fist, stick, or whip, for some connubial fault. In these abodes the laws which govern health are therefore utterly neglected, all kinds of refuse and filth being allowed to accumulate in and around them. In the rainy season, and especially during the "smokes" or dense foggy weather, the pernicious effect of these local contaminations is more sensibly felt in the spread of dysentery, diarrhœa, remittent and intermittent fevers, and in the prevalence of pulmonary disorders; other exciting causes being also in active operation. Perspiration, for example, is checked by the damp air and vicissitudes of temperature, giving, frequently, rise to internal congestion, languid circulation in the liver and functional disturbance of that organ. Nevertheless, some cause other than these must be at work to account for their yearly prevalence and the high rate of mortality, and this it appears to me can only be accounted for by the diffusion of a specific poison of a malarious and partly of a scorbutic nature. Indeed this has to my mind been most ably demonstrated by the observations of my friend, Dr. Mac Cormack, of Belfast, who has rigorously followed up investigations on this subject during several years. It is his opinion "that all cases of scrofula or of phthisis have 'invariably, as an antecedent, the prolonged respiration of impure air, that is to say, of air already respired; 'while, conversely, everything alleged hitherto as the cause of these affections does not apply to all the 'cases, scrofula and consumption being more frequently developed in man and animals exposed to an 'insufficiently renewed atmosphere, whatever might be the condition to which they were subjected.' He has proved 'that when air containing eight or ten per cent. of carbonic acid is respired the blood 'ceases to give off carbonic acid. The products of the interstitial waste incessantly going on are 'therefore retained in the blood. The waste is converted into tubercle, and tubercle is the waste 'retained in the system, laid down in holes and corners here and there, owing to the impossibility of 'otherwise getting rid of it, so long as foul air, i.e., air previously respired, is habitually made 'use of.'

I feel convinced that those organs which bear the first brunt of the vitiated air in their overcrowded and close rooms soonest suffer. This is the case with the eye and ear, as well as the lungs, and the numbers by whom I was consulted, suffering from hæmoptysis, ophthalmia, or otorrhœa bears out the truth of my assertion. But besides these fertile sources of disease, the poverty of the mass of the people ought to be taken into account in dealing with this subject, because the long train of evils which spring from it are so formidable that although benevolence may mitigate, it cannot prevent them.

The natives suffer severely from rheumatism, rheumatic swellings of the large joints, and anomalous fugitive pains, often brought on by careless exposure to chills, and their habit of sleeping on the damp earth, exposed in an unprotected state to the heavy night dews.

7. The sanitary condition of the town is deplorable, notwithstanding that some good has of late been effected by the municipality, yet, strange to tell, no public cloacinæ have as yet been provided to meet the wants of the people, although the subject has been repeatedly taken up, and just as suddenly

dropped, the consequence being that decency is constantly outraged, and the most disgusting nuisances are openly committed on the streets. Foul stench everywhere assail the nose and corrupt the air, dunghills being attached to the huts, where garbage, filth, and stinking fish, &c. are thrown. Indeed its inhabitants are chiefly indebted for the partial cleanliness that exists to those useful scavengers, the turkey buzzards, largely helped by packs of half-starved mangy curs and ill-conditioned hogs, who greedily devour the excrementitious matters which are left to rot upon the streets. I have said before that the houses are so closely connected that a free current of air between them is much impeded, and these narrow spaces and the public highways are further polluted by the surface drainage, which at present is allowed to escape freely from the houses upon the streets, and still further contributes to the unhealthiness of the town.

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8. The mass of the inhabitants bury their dead in the basement floor of their houses; a practice not confined to the pagan part of the population, but also practised by many respectable and wealthy families. This hurtful custom cannot be too soon discontinued. It is not done by the natives of the interior, but by all accounts it has been an ancient custom on the coast towns. When the deceased is wealthy, valuable articles, as gold ornaments, gold dust, and agger beads, are placed in the coffin, and the body is sprinkled with gold dust. These tombs in this way become family banks, and in the time of trouble the gold so deposited is applied to meet pressing claims or other family purposes. I may here mention that several persons have been buried in the floor of the medical store of the Colonial Hospital, in the surgery, and in the kitchen used by the female prisoners. Suitable epitaphs are engraved on marble slabs which mark the spot where two of the dead rest.

There are two badly situated graveyards in Cape Coast, both being in the windward part of the town, one of them being, moreover, surrounded by a dense population; and these cemeteries, from their position, are very injurious to the health of the community. But besides these burial places, wherein Christians are alone interred, graves at present are allowed to be dug on the beach for certain of the pagan population, and slaves are buried, without restriction to position, along the pathways of the suburbs of the town, in the common near the Salt Pond, and elsewhere. To correct these evils, I would respectfully suggest that the Christian burial ground should be closed up, and cemeteries be opened to the leeward of the town, where there is an abundance of lands lying waste suitable for the purpose, and that a piece of ground be set apart wherein to bury the dead of the pagan and slave population.

As each house or hut contains a number of individuals, the population is condensed, and the extent of the town is correspondingly diminished in size. The population of Cape Coast and suburbs may be fairly estimated at 8,000 persons, including men, women, and children, but a large fluctuating population, who visit it either to trade, to have their political palavers discussed and arranged by the government, and the crowds constantly passing to and from towns and villages on the seaboard, and from the rural districts to the Court of the Judicial Assessor, largely increases the number of its inhabitants.

A ravine, evidently the bed of a dried-up stream, intersects the eastern portion of the town, the huts of the natives rising in several parts from its edge or built upon its banks. This vast surface sewer is strewn over with animal and vegetable refuse, in every stage of decay, and perforated in a great part of its course by holes which the people dig for water. At the seaside, where it terminates, the surface water is dammed up by the sand thrown up by the surf on the shore, and is there collected into fœtid pools. With regard to this gully, I respectfully submit that if it were thoroughly cleansed, and bridged over at the most convenient points, the health and comfort of the inhabitants would be materially benefited.

Another important point would be to obtain an abundant supply of good water, and this could readily be effected, at a moderate expense, by boring and constructing wells. At present the supply of this element of life is very inadequate to meet the wants of the townspeople, and in the dry weather, or in seasons of drought when there is little or no fall of rain, as was the case in 1856, it must be procured from springs in the bush, or from the Sweet or Aquatachie rivers. A number of wells, I believe dug by the Portuguese, are situated near the head of the ravine; but as they belong to private families, and are kept carefully locked up, they are only accessible to a privileged few among the community. These wells are in depth about 40 or 50 feet. An unfinished tank, built by subscription, and which I understand cost 1,500*l.*, was erected near the centre of the town, and if it is ever completed would prove of the utmost advantage.

In 1857 I was called upon as a member of a commission then appointed to examine and report upon the sanitary condition of the Castle. The tanks were at that time in a most unsatisfactory condition, being polluted with feculence and concentrated fluid filth, which was washed into them from the privies. The water in the trapped tank, situated on the great triangular area, was in a state of decomposition, as announced by the gaseous product, carburetted hydrogen, bubbling to the surface, over which a greasy pellicle floated. In these reservoirs the water was still further defiled by the excrements of domestic animals, and by the insects fitted to live in the foul fluid. But the water in the tank immediately under the guard-room was comparatively pure and wholesome, and being wholly collected from the roof of that building it is less exposed to contamination. Since that report was made the tanks have been cleansed out, and porcelain tubing now conveys the water along the Spur and great triangular spaces to them; but during heavy falls of rain stercoraceous and other fluid filth is still liable to be washed down from the privies, and swept up from the adjoining battery and part of the great triangular space, into one of the large tanks situated in the south-east sea battery, through a vertical grated aperture built into the inner wall; and this will always happen until the gullyhole in question is either closed up or differently arranged. At present, the rain water in rushing down the sloping surface towards the water gate is checked in its course by a semicircular layer of masonry built near the tank, apparently to direct the drainage into a surface channel lower down; but its operation is mischievous, as the intercepted water eddying round the grated opening referred to is forced through it into the tank. I therefore respectfully submit, that means should be taken to remedy an evil so fatal to health; and I would at the same time suggest, that, to render the tanks complete, the filters recently supplied should be erected, and that they should all be made perfectly watertight.

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9. In the vicinity of Cape Coast a low, undulating, hilly range encloses it in an amphitheatre of irregular form; the chain of hills, sweeping in a convex semicircle, takes a north-east and westerly direction to within a quarter of a mile to the east and about a mile to the west of the Castle. Beyond the hills, near the sea, are valleys of inconsiderable extent; their highest peaks do not exceed 300 feet in height above the level of the sea, while their average height is about 170. Their peaks and declivities are densely covered with copsewood, interspersed with a few cocoa-nut trees, the elais guinensis, and date palms, with forest trees. In the lower grounds cleared patches occur, sparsely covered with a grassy sward, and dotted over with clumps of trees; but the land under cultivation bears so very small a proportion to that lying waste, which prevails to such an extent, that the former is the exception to and the latter the rule. The bush has, however, been cleared away in different places in the suburbs by industrious persons, chiefly pensioners from the West India Regiments, and these spots appear to much advantage when contrasted with the wilderness of jungle left in its primitive unproductiveness.

About a mile from the Castle, and to the north-west of it, there is a salt lake upwards of a mile in length and half that distance in breadth. It is below the level of the ocean, from which it is separated by a belt of sand, and is filled with water intensely salt, which percolates from the ocean through the intervening mound of sand. There are similar salt ponds in the immediate vicinity of Anamaboe, James Town, Accra, and Christiansborg Castle, from which the people obtain supplies of crab and other fish. In the rainy season the water falling upon the hills which surround it is drained into the pond, and its volume is still further increased by springs which rise through the spongy reed-covered morass at its extremity. When the rains are at their height the area of the loch is greatly extended, portions of the adjoining land being regularly flooded at that season.

As regards health, the removal of the jungle, and the tillage of the waste lands in the vicinity of Cape Coast, would free it from a perpetual source of febrile and dysentric diseases, which at all times more or less afflict its inhabitants.

The soil differs in different localities. In some places it is siliceous, or composed of a black and fertile loam, while in other situations it is argillaceous, and of a reddish brown colour, through which quartz, mica, and feldspar crop out. A dark hard baked clay is abundantly met with, which is intimately blended with minute spangles of mica, and which is broken up with difficulty and labour. Many of the clays are made into pots, and are in common use throughout these settlements for cooking purposes, for which they are exceedingly well adapted.

In several parts of the country, as in Akim, Tseful, and Wassaw, gold digging is the occupation of large numbers of people who resort there from all parts of the settlements. All day and night nothing is heard but the noise of digging, grinding, and washing the soil. The pits at their entrance are generally two feet in diameter, and vary from 40 to 50 feet in depth, according to the distance of the auriferous quartz from the surface. The earth is removed with a claypot attached to a rope, and in this way the hole is deepened and made large enough to admit of one man working in a squatting position. The excavated earth is divided between the men who work the pit, who carry it home and there grind and wash it. The chief of the district is entitled to one third of the proceeds. From these pits being shored up very imperfectly, and often not at all, masses of earth fall in, burying the miners alive.

Apintoe and Essahman are the principal gold fields in Western Wassaw. At the diggings, marketable goods, such as cotton, rum, gunpowder, &c. are sold at greatly enhanced prices, from the difficulty of their transport, in exchange for gold dust. The yield varies greatly. The metal is procured at some of the "holes" from the auriferous soil, and at others from the crushed quartz. In other districts it is fished up from the bed of the rivers. At Cape Coast and along the seaboard, women may be observed every morning washing the sand on the beach, especially after heavy rains. The sweepings of the market floors are also diligently swept up and washed, to recover any gold dust dropped during the day. The earnings of these poor women average about 10d. sterling daily, but occasionally 2s. 6d. worth of granular gold rewards their toil. To the granules collected on the beach a fine black and, apparently, metallic sand is often found adhering.

The bulk of the gold exported from this coast comes from Ashantee, and the quantity annually sent to England is estimated at 100,000 ozs.

10. Having travelled through several parts of the country in the windward and leeward coasts, I crave leave to record my impressions regarding the subject of population.

Judging from what I saw, my opinion is that the protected territory is sparsely inhabited. The population of this territory has been estimated at 400,000, scattered over a surface of about 8,000 square miles. The people have no manufactures worthy of the name, but may be separated into three classes, agriculturists, traders, and fishermen. There are, however, several places along the seaboard where salt is procured by the natural evaporation of sea water in shallow pans. Magnificent forests cover large tracts in the windward districts, in which no human being dwells. Even the charming glades which open up the forests at several points, relieving and delighting the eye tired of the wearisome sameness of the route, are uninhabited; their refreshing calm and pleasantly cool shades, being seldom trodden by the foot of man, are left the undisturbed inheritance of the wild denizens of the woods. In fact they are to a great extent rendered impenetrable by masses of underwood, and plants with prickles which grow between the trees and interlace them together; the tortuous pathway being alone trodden by the foot of man, while upon the vast plains in the neighbourhood of Pram Pram no house is to be met with for many miles in succession. The population has not been diminished by war, pestilence, or famine, for the Croboe revolt last year may be said to have been put down without bloodshed; nevertheless the increase of population has not been in any degree commensurate with what might reasonably be expected under such favourable circumstances. To what then is the cause ascribable? In my humble opinion the chief cause arises from the enormous mortality which continually occurs in infancy from mismanagement by the natives of their young, and by their unskilful medical treatment. Polygamy is another cause which powerfully contributes to this effect, because the habits which it engenders materially diminishes the number of births, and, undoubtedly, the easy access to spirits, and its enormous consumption in these settlements, may justly be considered extremely prejudicial to life.

11. I was called upon to attend several women in lingering and difficult labour during the past year.

I generally found an aged woman acting as midwife, but the patient was also cheered by the presence of numerous male and female friends, and although I readily induced them to leave the room, they returned as soon as I had left the house to console her. GOLD COAST.

12. Abortion is sometimes practised. In a case which occurred a few years ago it was effected by introducing into the womb a piece of pointed stick, upon which certain country medicines had been smeared, and thereafter administering a draught composed of the same drug. Labour came on in two hours, when she was delivered of a dead child. She died a month after. In another instance a woman in a respectable position had become pregnant, and dreading the loss of her appointment she applied to a fetish woman at Anamaboe, who, after much persuasion, and a promise of a fee of 3*l*. 12*s*., consented to her earnest entreaty, and administered a draught, which immediately caused vomiting, succeeded by severe pains in the belly, when collapse came on, and she died six hours after taking the dose. The preparations used in the second instance to induce abortion were made from the leaves of the plant Emboo, and the bark of the tree Cola. An enema was made by rubbing together and then strongly expressing the juice from the leaves of the plant Emboo into about a pint of cold water, into which a small quantity of the powder of cayenne pepper was put. This was administered about six o'clock A.M., and shortly after it acted freely on the bowels. The woman then washed and anointed her skin, when a dose of the bark of the colatree was given her. The bark was finely ground into powder, mixed with a wine-glass full of lime juice, and drunk off half an hour after the injection had been given. Sometimes the enema is repeated, and the cola powders are given for two or three successive mornings until the desired effect is produced.

Abortion is sometimes resorted to when a woman who is suckling becomes pregnant, on the grounds of the injury done to the baby at the breast, and because generally they are too poor to rear the child upon spoon meat.

Among the natives of the Gold Coast a sterile woman is a reproach, and the birth of children is most earnestly desired, and several instances have come to my knowledge of well-educated natives consulting fetish practitioners to remove the cause of the barrenness by means of medicines and various charms, a consummation sometimes happily attained by a change of habits, but which is almost invariably ascribed by them to the power of the drugs of their country doctors.

The case of child birth noted in the annexed yearly Medical Return marked I. occurred in the early part of September. The mother, an Ashantee refugee slave, was then delivered of a female child. Immediately after its birth the skin was first carefully scraped with a knife, and afterwards scrubbed with dry sand, to remove the natural unctuous coating spread over it, when the infant was washed. These proceedings occupied an hour, and were performed in the open air. I.

Children born with supernumerary fingers or toes are looked upon by the superstitious people of the Gold Coast as witches. In one instance which came to my knowledge the infant was on this account, soon after its birth, burnt alive; and, in another case, the child was destroyed by twisting its neck, when it was buried in a dunghheap. Both these atrocities were committed in the districts of Wassaw, several days' journey from Cape Coast.

13. When the natives lose in succession one or two children by death they mark the next born, by making one cut on each temple, but should that child also die they mark their next born by making three vertical and one transverse incisions across the temple, these cuts being so made that the marks are indelible. Should the death of their children occur frequently, they sometimes throw the body of the child which has died last into the bush, to be devoured by wild beasts; but they attribute any congenital deformity that may appear in the child that may be born after this barbarous custom to its having been so injured when cast into the jungle, as they firmly believe that the child that has been born defective is the same child whose body they had flung away. This circumstance shows a belief in the doctrine of metempsychosis.

14. The women of the lower orders wear strings round their legs, and often above their ankles, and these ligatures are generally so tightly drawn that the cord leaves a deep mark upon the skin, showing that the return of the blood in the cutaneous veins had been interrupted. The reason alleged for wearing these ties is to distinguish their sex. Sometimes these ties are fettered, to cure their pains, when they are knotted, a piece of blue or scarlet cloth being attached to the cords.

15. I was frequently called upon to prescribe for young children suffering from swellings of the feet and legs, resembling anasarca, and proving fatal unless properly treated. Very many of these children were slaves, who had been purchased some weeks or months before, either from the Ashantees or Wassaws, and most of them were about three years of age.

Judging from what has fallen under my observation at Cape Coast, I am of opinion that 300 slaves are brought to this station every quarter from Coomassie and Wassaw.

The natives suffer occasionally from œdema of the face, and they look upon its appearance with great alarm, as it is a sure index of constitutional decay and disease of the liver. Persons affected in this way have a bloated sickly aspect, with mental dejection, and indifference to life. Tonic remedies, with alteratives, sometimes effected a cure; but the majority of instances proved fatal. A good many persons of both sexes, but chiefly males, applied to me while suffering from gonorrhœa.

16. Regarding guinea worm, I am satisfied that it is not caused by drinking impure water. The natives entertain an idea that the guinea worm prefers taking up its abode in the skin of those persons who have, as they express it, "sweet flesh," and that it avoids the skin of those in whom the perspiratory fluid is acid, the prevailing opinion among them being that the germ of the worm gets in some way into the skin: in what way they do not know. All the natives of the Gold Coast believe that there is a male and female guinea worm. The male worm is about the thickness of a crow's quill, the female being about the thickness of stout linen thread. There is no other perceptible difference, and they attain an equal length. Some of the people think it of more frequent occurrence during the rains, while others consider it is quite as much so in the dry season. From a peculiar idiosyncrasy some persons are attacked by the worm every year, occasionally having several worms in various parts of the body at one and the same time. An individual may have at one and the same time a male and female guinea worm in the body, when two or three worms are present in it. The length of time that may elapse before the worm is extracted varies. Sometimes it will take six months, and if cut or

GOLD COAST. broken two or three years; but should an abscess form and ripen quickly its expulsion is soon effected; but the average time may be reckoned at three months before it can be got rid of. They consider that the female worm is the most difficult to get rid of, and if either the male or female worm is broken they believe that worms are produced from the fluid exuded from the divided parts. Children seven months old have frequently guinea worms generally in their feet and arms. Many of the natives suppose the worms exist in their bodies before they were born; but it is well known that children, while their parents are suffering from the disease, come into the world without a trace of the worm, and grow up without getting it. Some persons continue subject to this cruel infliction during their lives, and aged persons are frequently afflicted with worms of each sex. To cure it, a cold poultice of cankey, made of Indian corn, is applied over the blistered-like surface at which the worm appears; and if an abscess is present, and points, they open it either with a needle or razor. A coarse powder is likewise made by pounding the leaves of certain plants, a portion of which they take into the mouth, and eject it in the form of a thin jetty spray over the part. At other times this powder is mixed up with water, and daubed over and around the opening from which the worm protrudes. Fresh chalots are also pounded, and fastened over it; and this application sometimes breaks up the worm, or causes it to be more readily extracted. They secure the worm by a thread, which they either wind round the part, or knot it, to prevent its retraction, and attach a small weight, as a piece of lead, to the free end of the packthread. No internal remedies are taken by them, but they spread palm oil all over certain leaves, and then apply them over the wound. In most instances the legs and feet are the seats of the disease; the only part of the body which seems exempt from its invasion is the hairy scalp, and in that position it has never been seen. Several persons have been known to have thirty worms in their bodies at one and the same time. My friend, Surgeon Major E. A. Brien, reporting last year on the prevalence of guinea worm, remarked that the men who slept on mats on the floor of the barrack rooms were constantly attacked with guinea worm, but upon beds and bedding being issued the disease gradually decreased. In the treatment of guinea worm the iodide of potass has been found serviceable, given internally in doses of five grains three times daily. It appears to destroy the worm and its germs, and to hasten its expulsion. Tincture of asafetida has also been administered, with a similar intention, but I am sceptical of much good being derived from its use, both on account of its volatile qualities and from its quickly passing off through the kidneys. In opening abscesses I have frequently found two or three worms inextricably coiled together, an occurrence fortunate for the sufferer, as they are speedily got rid of. The worst effect of guinea worm is that of occasionally inducing permanent deformity of one or both feet, when it takes up its seat in these parts, for it gets so twined about the tendon achilles and tendons of the feet, and excites so much inflammation that they not unfrequently become permanently flexed and contracted to such an extent that the person treads solely upon the cushion of the foot and toes, and walking is a work at once slow and difficult.

17. A few persons who have suffered in early life from rachitis may be observed going about upon their hands, which are protected by wooden instruments; and the proportion of persons with distorted spine, which gives rise to the hunchback, is quite as often met with as in Europe. The native kings and chiefs are fond of having hunchbacked people about them as court criers, to carry messages to short distances, and to amuse them with their buffoonery, grotesque appearance, and generally quick and witty remarks. On the death of a person whose spine is much hunched up the natives cut away the hunch before they bury the body, because they believe that if this was not done other members of the deceased family would become similarly deformed.

In some parts of the country the natives, on the death of a leper, burn the body, and also the clothes and mats that they had used, but in other parts lepers are interred in the nests raised by the ant, and they do not make custom for persons dying of smallpox, but bury their bodies in the bush.

18. Stammering is a defect very common among the people, but is affected by many among them, as it is thought fashionable to stammer.

The number of persons blind from cataract and amaurosis is very considerable, but the number of deaf and dumb people is much less.

The number of children with large and protuberant bellies is remarkable, but it does not seem to arise from disease, but from their being allowed to cram with food of difficult digestion, as when they grow up the enlargement disappears.

Exomphalos is very common, and arises from their neglecting to bandage the umbilicus after birth. The parents of some of the children who suffer from this deformity generally employ the drummer of a company to beat very gently upon the infant's navel. This ceremony is performed three times upon Sundays and Wednesdays, with a view to the removal of the hernia.

I was consulted by two persons who had been attacked with aphonia; they were both young people; one of them was a girl of 18 years, who had been attacked five days before I saw her, but she made a good recovery.

During the year I had frequent occasion to pass the catheter in cases of retention of urine among males, and I had several times to perform the operation in females suffering retention in difficult and lingering labours.

19. A superficial observer might suppose, from the very few deranged, imbecile, or fatuous persons going about at large in the coast towns of these settlements, that the inhabitants were seldom attacked by maniacal disease, but, from inquiries I have made on this subject, I am satisfied such is not the fact. Lunatics, it is true, are seldom seen in the coast towns, because their friends remove them into the bush as soon as possible after the maniacal accession has been manifested. For the Fantees, Accras, and all other races on the Gold Coast view madness with horror, and as bringing disgrace upon the afflicted party and his family and friends. Suitable houses are, therefore, generally appropriated in the bush for the reception and medical treatment of the insane. In the neighbourhood of Accra and its vicinity persons suffering from mania are sent to the town of Tescia, a few miles distant from Accra.

With respect to the mode of treatment adopted by their doctors in these native asylums, the primary objects aimed at appears to be the security of the patients, and the prevention of harm being done by them either to themselves or others during the maniacal paroxysms. With these objects in view, the

patients are carefully secured by fastening the wrist to a log of wood by an iron staple, sufficient space being left between the log and staple to serve the purpose of a rude handcuff. If the lunatic is very violent, the ankles are similarly fastened. In this condition they lie or sit on the ground, where they are much neglected, being allowed to become dirty and extremely loathsome. On the first appearance of the disease the head is shaved, when pounded leaves and other cooling applications are kept on it, to reduce its temperature, and to calm down mental irritation. GOLD COAST.

The people of this coast are liable to a lethargy known among them as "the sleepy sickness." The drowsiness is so overpowering that the patient falls asleep even while eating. Young girls, in whom the catamenia has never appeared or is suppressed, are frequently attacked with the disease. At Sierra Leone, I have known several instances of its being induced in youths of both sexes from smoking "diamba," or Indian hemp.

Attacks of coup de soleil are of rare occurrence. Indeed, it is a very common thing to see children secured to their mothers' backs with the head exposed to the fierce glare and heat of noonday, without suffering in the slightest. This immunity is owing, in great measure, to the nature of their hair, and also to the relaxation of the system by which profuse perspiration follows the least exertion, thereby equalising the circulation and preventing local congestions. Even Europeans are not subject to sunstroke.

20. The powder of the Malagetta pepper is extensively used, and is applied externally in fever, rheumatic and fugitive pains. One way of applying it is by spitting the pepper from the mouth over the affected parts in a thin steamy shower; and this is repeated until the pepper is sufficiently sputtered over the patient. The pepper is also mixed into a paste with water, and painted over the skin in longitudinal lines; but in Wassaw and elsewhere they daub it over the skin, without taking that trouble, when the Malagetta pepper is applied in the way just described. All the joints are at the same time marked with a single spot of white chalk; and this observance is a custom which is practised only on the living; for the dead, although perfumed with Malagetta pepper and sweet-scented plants, are never chalked.

21. The natives pay great attention to keep the skin clean, and, when bathing, dry scrub it with sand to remove impurities. I have frequently seen them, when alone, lie down on the sand of the sea-beach on their back, and scrub themselves by rubbing the back against the sand; but they often assist one another to perform this salutary process. They also scrub the soles of the feet clean by dancing backwards and forwards upon the sand; but all this care to preserve the skin clean does not extend to their clothing, which is only washed at uncertain intervals, and is frequently extremely dirty.

22. I have observed that the mortality among the natives is greatest at the commencement and termination of the rainy season, and that hepatitis, diarrhœa, and dysentery are then most prevalent, these diseases being then frequently brought on by eating new corn, ground nuts, casada, and yams before they are sufficiently dry. The food of the mass of the people chiefly consists of vegetables and fruits, with fresh fish, and dried fish in excess, often so highly ammoniacal as to be commonly known under the name of "stink fish," with land snails, and land and sea crabs. But their principal dish is composed of fish, and, when they have the means, of fish, fowl, or meat stewed singly or together; palm oil, freshly expressed from the nut, being always an important ingredient in it. This stew is made piquant and wholesome by the addition of salt, bitter tomatoes or oceres, shallots, or, as substitute for the latter, the dried bark of a tree called "Edooah Ahyew" (which resembles the onion in flavour and taste), and abundance of red peppers. With this highly seasoned stew they eat unleavened bread made of indian corn, or with pounded yams or plantains, which, when cooked, is called foofoo. Great part of the food of the people on the coast consists, as I have just stated, of bread made from indian corn, while the natives inland subsist chiefly upon plantains, yams, cassada, and sweet potatoes, and in this respect the former are in advance of the latter, as the use of cereals as food has always been accounted a marked step in national civilization. Animal food is however seldom eaten, and even milk is rarely used by them. They are in the habit of eating once or twice a day, and often distend the stomach with bulky food to such an extent that its functions and those of the liver and bowels become disturbed and weakened, nature relieving herself by passing the undigested food away in the form of diarrhœa. Hence it follows that the food of the black and coloured population generally is less nourishing and stimulating than that of the European, and they consequently suffer so little from fever; but, nevertheless, when attacked with disease, the vital vigour of their constitution is so slight that they are less able to bear up against the shock, or to rally when the powers of life have been reduced by physical depression.

23. Both native and European suffer much from hepatic affections, and a great many of the former class were treated at the dispensary while suffering from jaundice, either incipient or complete. Acute hepatitis is prone in this climate to run into abscess. To illustrate the rapidity with which this organ may be completely destroyed, I may mention that I was consulted during the year in the case of two European officers; the first, about 27 years of age, was seized with rigor fever, and pain over the liver, with most persistent constipation, and, in spite of the utmost attention, he died in nine days from the commencement of the attack. On examination the liver was found broken down, and softened into a substance of the consistence of thick jam. In the second case, the officer might be about 36 years of age. He was first attacked with hæmorrhoids, to which he was occasionally subject, followed by diarrhœa, prostration of strength, and delirium, and he sunk soon after the first severe symptoms had set in. Examination after death showed that the liver was extensively burrowed by abscesses, and its substance infiltrated with purulent matter.

24. Dysentery being by far the most fatal disease on the Gold Coast, both to the European and native, I shall take the liberty of saying a few words respecting its treatment by the country practitioners. Their method of cure is, first, to purge the bowels with drastic medicines, after which some of them use an enema of the leaves of a plant called by them Annana Tanta, and restrict the diet to the powder of the flour of Indian corn which has been highly parched or roasted. A soup is eaten with it, made by boiling an infusion of the tanta leaf, scraped roasted plantains, and small pieces of dry fish, until it thickens. Should this mode of treatment fail, they use the bark of a tree called Etua (*Kiglia Africana*). The bark is boiled for two hours in fresh palm wine,

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and when cool is drunk three times daily. Boiled rice as a dry diet is also strongly recommended. To relieve tenesmus they introduce into the bowel a suppository, made either of ground grains of Paradise or the grains of a black pepper called Sasmah, which is beaten up with the leaves of the plant called Empoompoo. They also use for this purpose an enema made by expressing the juice of the plant called Yanchie (a plant of the phormium genus), which they mix with a small quantity of the acetate of copper. In fact, the natives depend much upon enemata, given in small quantity so as to be retained in the bowels, and upon great attention to diet. The patients are allowed by some of the country doctors to wash their bodies with warm water, but in general pure water is forbidden, the skin being instead assiduously laved with a cold infusion made by macerating for one or more days the decayed roots of the plantain tree, with the leaves of the lime tree, cassada plant, and roots of the water lilly, but in each the skin is subsequently anointed with shea butter. After this some light food, generally a gruel, called Pampa, made of indian corn, is taken. In treating dysentery they strongly recommend their patients to take cold air baths. They are directed to rise at daybreak, and sit naked in the open air exposed to the cool and pleasant morning breeze until 6 o'clock a.m. They are then washed in the infusion before described, have the skin well greased with the shea unguent, and partake of some pampa gruel, when they retire to rest, and frequently fall into a sound and refreshing sleep often lasting many hours. This simple method of obtaining an air bath is likewise much practised to restore the health of invalids convalescing from other lingering illnesses besides dysentery. Persons while suffering from dysentery are not restricted from the use of meat, but the mass of the people being without the means of procuring it, they use dried fish as a substitute, which seems to answer equally well in persons not accustomed to animal food. Crab and cray fish are eaten roasted, but prohibited when boiled; beef is not objected to, provided it has been cooked the previous day; and the same rule applies to venison, and the flesh of the porcupine, elephant, and buffalo; indeed many of the natives consider buffalo meat not only as a safe article of diet, but even view it as a valuable curative agent. Mutton and pork in any shape or form are prohibited as well as the flesh of the wild and domestic fowl. A cold infusion of the bark of a tree possessing the medical virtues of Winter's bark,* with the root, bark, and leaves of the Boabob tree is drank three or four times daily. Sometimes the powder of these plants is given in cold water frequently during the day, and this powder is also mixed up with a small quantity of warm water and administered as an enema at irregular intervals. The patient is likewise ordered to keep warm, the loins and belly being coated over with a paste made of the Malagetta pepper. Several of their medicines are given in palm oil on the supposition that when mixed with water they become inert. A great many other native remedies are used in this disease, and I have merely given a meagre outline of the general principles applied by them to cure it. They consider dysentery highly contagious, and take care not to use the same conveniences as the patient.

It will be observed that the method of treatment adopted by the natives to cure dysentery differs widely from the European plan of treatment in one most important point, that of diet, for the natives direct that the patient's food shall be dry and nutritive, whereas the general rule of diet adopted by European medical officers is to confine the sufferer to soups and farinaceous substances, with an entire abstinence from solid animal food. This, in my opinion, is the secret of the great success attained by the natives in the cure of dysentery. With regard to animal food, I am quite satisfied that it is unwisely interdicted in the treatment of dysentery, more especially when it becomes chronic. It is difficult to draw the line of demarkation between diarrhoea and dysentery where the one terminates and the other begins; but diarrhoea will sometimes last for months at a time without dysentery, and with no organic disease of the liver, proving fatal by its persistence and the debility and emaciation it induces. In dysentery no one remedy has been found in European practice on the Gold Coast much superior to another; but great benefit has been frequently derived by giving the acetate of lead and opium in chronic cases. When the stools are frothy and feculent, sulphate of copper has been found of the most advantage.

Having myself suffered severely from dysenteric diarrhoea, I may briefly state that I obtained the greatest relief from the painful and distressing tenesmus and tormina always more or less present, from enemata composed of half a wine-glassfull of thin arrowroot mixed up with a tea-spoonfull of tincture of opium, the bowels having been previously cleared out with castor oil. This, combined with strict attention to a diet consisting of arrow root and chicken tea, was the chief treatment adopted, the strength being kept up with moderate quantities of port wine. I need hardly observe that there must be an entire abstinence from food dressed with peppers, and from the varied sauces and piquant condiments of the table, many persons having died of the consequences of indulging their appetites while convalescing from an attack of dysentery.

25. Tetanus, either in its idiopathic or traumatic form, is a disease by no means uncommon among the natives. In the early part of July last I attended a young woman in comfortable circumstances who had been attacked with idiopathic tetanus two days before I saw her. The jaws were firmly locked together, and the disease had otherwise fairly set in. Several remedies having been tried without effect, I, in consultation with my friend, Staff Assistant Surgeon O'Callaghan, administered chloroform to the patient, and with the good effect of relaxing the muscles of the jaws so far as to allow food and medicines to be given; but the good done was only of a temporary nature, as she died next morning. I have no doubt, however, that chloroform given at an earlier stage of its invasion will prove a valuable adjuvant remedy in tetanic disease. Several persons applied for relief while suffering from an inability to separate one or both angles of the lower from the upper jaw. It is perfectly distinct from tetanus, as is readily shown by the expression of the countenance. It arises apparently from cold and malarious influence. At all events, the muscles of the lower jaw are stiff, and cannot be moved by the patient's will.

26. Delirium tremens is, I regret to say, by no means rare among the natives; and I may here record the great advantage which attended the use of chloroform in one of the worst cases of the

* The bark is procured from a tree which grows in the inland districts of the Gold Coast. It is rough and of a brown colour, and in taste resembles Winter's bark.

disease which I ever witnessed. A European, about thirty years of age, had before I saw him passed several nights and days in the most distressing condition, haunted with the idea that he had been guilty of a fearful crime, and obstinately resisting all persuasion to take medicine. In this lamentable plight, the powers of life being greatly exhausted, I suggested that chloroform should be tried. It was accordingly administered; but it failed in the first instance to induce sleep; nevertheless it soothed and calmed down the frightful mental alarm and apprehension that existed; but a further and longer trial of it induced a most refreshing sleep, from which he awoke free from delirium. Everything went on well after this, as he rapidly convalesced, being soon thereafter invalided.

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27. Accidents from the bites of snakes occasionally happen; and two instances have fallen under my notice. A slave, a young man about seventeen years of age, was bitten while working in the bush on the outer and middle third of the right leg. I saw him about one hour after the receipt of the injury, and found his friends had placed cords both above and below the wound, so as effectually to intercept the circulation. The pulse was very feeble, the skin cold and clammy, and, in a word, he was in a state of collapse. In these circumstances I gave him a draught of aromatic spirits of ammonia and opium, and caused the wound to be diligently sucked, when I freely applied the nitrate of silver over its surface. His friends, having removed him, gave him an emetic, which caused him to vomit. He recovered in three weeks from the effects of the bite. In the other instance, a young Ashantee slave was bitten by a puff-necked snake in the forearm, in the act of moving a heavy package, and some of his countrymen who were beside him at the time immediately applied ligatures both above and below the wound, and at the same time freely scarified it with a razor, and then rubbed a lime and applied powdered leaves over it, while others of them promptly killed the snake, and having extracted both the poison sacs, then mixed the venom with trade rum and lime juice, and caused him to drink the mixture. Soon after he had taken the draught he vomited plentifully. There was very little swelling; and in a few days he was able to return to his usual avocations. The treatment adopted on this occasion to some extent resembles the homœopathic doctrine, as expressed in the axiom, *Similia similibus curantur*. The powdered bark and leaves of the cola tree are also considered an antidote for snake bites, provided it is promptly given to the sufferer.

The native doctors entertain the belief that it is unsafe to give medicines after sunset, and abstain from doing so except on the most urgent occasions. They suppose that the body is then too weak to undergo their action on the broad grounds that the sinking of the sun in the horizon is the universal signal for man to seek to recruit his strength by repose, and that remedies then taken act injuriously instead of beneficially.

28. I now beg to offer a few observations regarding the climate of the Gold Coast, which, in my humble opinion, may be favourably contrasted with that of Sierra Leone in several vital points. In the former the type of the remittent fever of the country is generally mild, of short duration, and rarely proves fatal to European life; in the latter, on the contrary, the seasoning fevers are prolonged, intractable, and too often terminate in death. Then, again, the epidemic as yellow fever which at uncertain intervals scourges the colonies of Gambia and Sierra Leone is wholly unknown on this coast. The atmosphere of the Gold Coast is moreover drier; the alternations of temperature neither so great or sudden; and the electric balance, if I may so express myself, is less liable to sudden disturbance. The mean fall of rain at the usual season is very much less than at Sierra Leone. The quantity of rain which falls during the year it has been stated averages from 80 to 100 inches. The nights during the rains are cool and pleasant; but the natives at this season suffer a good deal from catarrhs, pulmonary and rheumatic affections. During the rains thick fogs prevail, and this dense vapour renders the atmosphere hazy, descending in the evening in the form of a dew so heavy that it penetrates the wooden flooring to such an extent that the boards look as if just washed, and it hangs upon the jalousies of the inner doors of the house like great rain drops. The foggy weather prevails more or less in May, June, July, August, and September; and in these settlements, and on the coast generally, they are called smokes. More rain falls on an average in the interior of the country than on the seaboard; and this, in my opinion, does not arise from the land in the interior being more elevated than on the sea coast, but it appears to depend upon the large tracts of land covered with lofty forest trees attracting and arresting the clouds surcharged with moisture; for in the vicinity of the sea coast towns, the large trees having been cut down, there is merely copsewood densely matted by climbing plants; a circumstance which undoubtedly has greatly contributed to make the towns much more unhealthy than they would otherwise be had the forest trees in their neighbourhood been judiciously thinned, and not indiscriminately cleared away; for trees, it is well known, exercise a most salutary influence on the health of the inhabitants of malarious countries, by screening off and greatly modifying that most subtle poison. The seasons are well defined; the wet weather rarely encroaches on the boundaries of the dry, and the average variation of the temperature is 68° and 87° Fahrenheit, between the coldest time of the night and the hottest time of the day. Vide annexed Thermometrical Table marked 7. Even the harmattan winds, which in January and February blow from the E.N.E., are not in the least injurious to life, but, on the contrary, are much enjoyed by many Europeans who have lived long on the coast, as they find these winds very bracing. But persons recently arrived, on the contrary, generally find that they cause a dryness of the skin, and corresponding temporary functional disturbance of the liver. The heat of the climate on the Gold Coast is sensibly moderated by the breezes which blow at all seasons; and the heat is less oppressive and much less felt than at Sierra Leone, where it is checked by the land locked mountainous amphitheatres which border its shores and rivers. The climate of the Gold Coast is, I feel convinced, quite as good as most other tropical countries. The filth of the coast towns, the badness of the water, and proximity of the forts to the sea being evident causes of its apparent unhealthiness.

29. Dysentery is then the most fatal disease on this coast, but with ordinary care and attention no apprehensions need be entertained on the subject, provided medical aid is soon procured. Should the disease, however, persist, a removal to Europe is indispensably necessary to save life.

I may here remark, that I have observed that men advanced in life, and who had never been before in tropical climates, have a far better chance of living upon the Gold Coast, everything else being in other respects equal, than is the case at Sierra Leone or the Gambia, as aged persons settling at either Sierra

GOLD COAST. Leone or the Gambia incur an enormous risk. In these settlements they, on the contrary, enjoy good health, and generally are able to perform their several duties efficiently.

30. With regard to animal food, there is considerable difficulty in procuring regular supplies, as butcher meat is not sold in the markets; consequently Europeans must either kill a goat or sheep, which is both expensive and wasteful, or they are obliged to purchase a much larger quantity of the mutton or goats' flesh that is offered for sale than they want, or will keep wholesome until used up. Beef is rarely to be got on the windward coast; but at Accra very good beef can be obtained. Poultry is, however, abundant, reasonable in price, and, although small, is well flavoured, and turkeys at fair prices may occasionally be obtained from leeward districts. The vegetable market of Cape Coast is much better supplied than that of Accra. In the former, yams of the finest quality, cassada, ocroes, sweet potatoes, calavanches, and pumpkins, may, one or other, be had all the year round, and excellent cabbages are occasionally offered for sale. Bitter tomatoes, peppers, shallots, &c. help to season the food, and render it more piquant. The sameness of the diet may, moreover, be varied by preserved meats and vegetables, but the high price demanded by the merchants for these articles at present restricts their use, and, in fact, operates as a prohibition to their more general consumption. Cape Coast is pretty well supplied with fish, but the bulk of the fish taken consists of a description of herring, which are cured in large quantities by roasting them for the home market, or they are sent into the interior, and to the Ashantee country, where they are in great request. At Cape Coast the fishermen do not use deep-sea lines, but merely hand seines; a circumstance which prevents their taking the larger and finer varieties of fish which swim at a depth out of the reach of their nets; but at Winnebah, Accra, and Pram Pram the fishermen fish with deep-sea lines, and consequently much larger and finer kinds of fish are taken at these places than is the case at this station.

Many of the country cooked dishes, which are brought to table in the native-made pots in which they are cooked, are good and wholesome, and excellent as a change of diet. In cooking, the natives prefer to pound their food. Thus yams, plantains, and cassada are triturated between stones, and served up under the name of foofoo, and are eaten with soup, meat, or fish.

Fruit, contrary to what might be expected, is scarce, and often cannot be procured. Compared either with Sierra Leone or the Gambia, the supply of fruit is indifferent, and the variety limited to pines, limes, plantains, bannanas, mangoes, sour sops, the water melon, papua, tiger and ground nuts. Good oranges are occasionally to be got from Shuma, but they are not sold in the market. Cocoa nuts are abundant, and the water or milk is a most refreshing and wholesome beverage, which can be freely drunk to allay thirst. It ought, however, to be taken from the young nut.

31. In my opinion a very great deal of the suffering and disease so constantly met with in this climate is occasioned, as elsewhere, by over-feeding, which, as well as over-drinking, has consigned its victims to the graveyards of these settlements, sobriety as regards eating being quite as necessary to preserve health as temperance in drinking. A fair proportion of animal with vegetable food is as necessary to support and preserve the body in good health here as in Europe; perhaps, even more so, because the powers of life are greatly lowered by the influence of an insidious climate. Good wine and bitter beer may be moderately partaken of, not only without harm, but with the advantage of fortifying the system. European residents on the Gold Coast are too often satisfied with wearing apparel suited to the climate, overlooking the fact that exercise in the open air is just as necessary to preserve health here as it is in Europe. Many of them likewise entertain an impression that the sun's rays are hurtful, whereas in nine cases out of ten the mischief is done, not by the sun, but by errors of personal economy. Feeling sadly the wearisome sameness of life upon this part of the coast recourse is too frequently had to stimulants instead of resorting to constant and inexhausting employment, the only effectual and safe remedy against an evil fraught with such lamentable consequences. Europeans also bestow too little attention upon ventilation, far more harm being done by breathing close and impure air during the night than is ever brought about by exposure to the night wind. Indeed, there should be the freest circulation of air in the bed-chamber, and this may always be managed without subjecting the body to draughts.

32. In and about all the sea-coast towns on the windward coast walking is the only exercise that can be taken, as horses and other beasts of burden only live for a short time; but in the leeward districts, where horses thrive admirably, equestrian exercise can be enjoyed, and health greatly improved by a daily ride over the fine pastoral country in the vicinity of Winnebah, Accra, Christiansborg Castle, and Pram Pram; and there cannot be a doubt that the great advantages resulting to health from the face of the leeward districts being formed of vast undulating plains, covered with grass, wild flowers, and clumps of trees and copsewood, tells most favourably for European life, when contrasted with the dense brushwood which generally prevails in the neighbourhood of the coast towns of the windward districts. I may here, however, mention, that the country in the neighbourhood of Elmina is much freer of bush than that of Cape Coast, and horses generally live for a longer period at the former than at the latter station. A great deal of the land, however, lying to the north-west of Elmina and in its immediate vicinity is low and swampy, the ground being moreover broken by naturally formed ditches, into which the surface water drains during the rainy season. Notwithstanding the disadvantage above referred to, there might be many pleasant walks in the immediate vicinity of the towns in the windward districts, if trouble was taken to keep the roads clear of bush; a benefit which could be attained at a trifling cost, but which would confer on the inhabitants the means of enjoying the healthful recreation of walking on roads unencumbered with weeds and unpolluted by filth.

Great attention to keep the skin clean contributes much to preserve health in this climate, but the scarcity of water prevents a bath, properly so called, being taken; the substitute being a careful laving of the skin, which, however, answers very well. The natives and some Europeans bathe in the sea, washing off the salt water thereafter with fresh water.

33. In the time of sickness the want of female trained nurses is seriously felt by Europeans in these settlements. There are no nurses, strictly speaking. It is true that an aged woman, who understands English imperfectly, is sometimes got to look after the sick, but her attendance is considered rather as a favour, and she seldom remains beside the patient all night, as she generally then returns to her house, leaving the sick to be tended by male servants totally unqualified to undertake that duty. Should she

however, remain up, her infirm health obliges her to lie down, and she, in fact, is of little use, except to get some soup or other article of food prepared. Numbers of the native women could, however, be found who would gladly and cheerfully do all the numerous kind offices required by the sick, if they were not debarred by being unable to speak English. To remedy this evil I beg to recommend that two middle-aged women, of good character, be hired as hospital nurses to tend the sick. Under proper management, they would soon become familiar with their duties, and in case of sickness would be invaluable attendants upon the European officers and Europeans generally, when afflicted with disease of a dangerous nature; and from the well-known strong imitative qualities of the natives, there would be soon enough of women found to act as nurses, provided they are liberally and fairly remunerated for their trouble. I would also suggest, that they should be compensated at a fixed rate, as I am aware that unless this is done and well understood it would cause a great deal of trouble both to the patients and to the nurses.

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34. With regard to the classes best adapted to resist the climatorial influence, the negro race undoubtedly, hold the first rank; but it is questionable whether persons of colour are better able to bear up against its effects than persons of pure European blood, provided the latter are sober in their habits. There can be no doubt that Europeans, upon their first arrival in this country, are in greater danger of losing their lives than the former, but when once they have become acclimated they seem generally to withstand the influence of the climate better than the coloured people, provided, I repeat, that they are temperate in their habits.

35. In closing this Report it may be thought that I have dwelt too minutely on some of the subjects; but as a vast proportion of the disease which afflicts the population is in my humble opinion preventable, I dared not hang a drapery over naked facts, however unsightly, or conscientiously soften them down more than truth seemed to exact, my only object being to show how much may be done to improve the health of the people of these settlements, and so mitigate human misery, by removing evils the fruitful parent of disease and death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT CLARKE, Colonial Surgeon,
and Surgeon to the Natives.

No. 1.

MEDICAL RETURN of the Number of Sick and Wounded treated in the Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, from 31st December 1857 to 31st December 1858.

Disease.	Remained 31st December 1857.	Admitted.	Total treated.	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining 31st December 1858.
Fevers :						
Febris interm - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Liver and spleen :						
Icterus - - - - -	-	1	1	-	1	-
Enlargement of liver and spleen - - - - -	-	1	1	-	-	1
Stomach and bowels :						
Dysenteria chron. - - - - -	-	2	2	2	-	-
Colica - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Hernia, strangulated - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Brain :						
Apoplexia - - - - -	-	1	1	-	1	-
Cephalalgia - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Rheumatic affections :						
Rheumatic chron. - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Phlegmons and ulcers :						
Abscessus - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Ulcus - - - - -	-	9	9	7	-	2
Wounds and injuries :						
Fractura - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Contusio - - - - -	-	3	3	3	-	-
Cut-throat - - - - -	-	2	2	2	-	-
Luxatio - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Vulnus - - - - -	-	6	6	4	-	2
Venereal diseases :						
Paraphymosis - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Diseases of the genito-urinary organs :						
Stricturæ urethræ - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Extravasatio urethræ - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Diseases of the skin :						
Framboesia - - - - -	-	2	2	2	-	-
Other diseases of uncertain and variable seats :						
Debility - - - - -	-	4	4	4	-	-
Tumora - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Anasarca - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Amputatio - - - - -	1	1	2	2	-	-
Childbirth - - - - -	-	1	1	1	-	-
Total - - - - -	1	46	47	40	2	5

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No. 2.

RETURN showing the Number, Sex, and Class of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital at Cape Coast from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Sex.	Europeans.	Coloured Persons.	Blacks.	Total Treated.	Remarks.
Men - - -	2	2	33	37	
Women - - -	-	-	7	7	
Boys - - -	-	-	3	3	
Girls - - -	-	-	-	-	
Total -	2	2	43	47	

No. 3.

RETURN showing the Description of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast, from 1st January to 31st December 1858, and the Circumstances which led to their Admission.

Sex.	Admitted at their own or Friend's Request.	Debtors.	Refugee Slaves from Ashantee.	Untried Prisoners.	Convicts.	Total treated.
Men - - -	19	4	7	3	4	37
Women - - -	4	-	3	-	-	7
Boys - - -	2	-	1	-	-	3
Girls - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total -	25	4	11	3	4	47

No. 4.

RETURN showing the Number of Persons treated in the Colonial Hospital at Cape Coast, and by whom dieted in the Period from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Sex.	Dieted by their Friends.	By the Government.	Dieted by their Creditors.	Died before being dieted.	Total Number dieted.
Men - - -	13	21	2	1	37
Women - - -	-	7	-	-	7
Boys - - -	1	2	-	-	3
Girls - - -	-	-	-	-	-
Total -	14	30	2	1	47

No. 5.

RETURN of the Number, Cubical Contents, and Facilities for Ventilation in the Cape Coast Colonial Hospital, showing the Number of Inmates each Ward is capable of accommodating, allowing 600 Cubic Feet of Air to each Individual.

Description.	Cubical Contents.	Proportion of Patients to each Ward.	Ventilation.	
			Outside Windows.	Inside Windows.
Ground floor, Male ward - - }	4,083	6	2	1
Ground floor, Female Ward - - }	1,008	2 scanty	1	-
Second-floor, Euro-pean Male Ward - }	1,630	2	-	-
Total -	6,721	10	3	2

No. 6.

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MONTHLY NUMERICAL RETURNS of the Numbers of Persons who received Medical Assistance and Medicines, many being attended at their Homes, in the Period from 1st January to 31st December 1858.

Months.	Number of Persons attended, &c.	Remarks.
January - - -	437	
February - - -	316	
March - - -	414	
April - - -	424	
May - - -	414	
June - - -	383	
July - - -	382	
August - - -	423	
September - - -	425	
October - - -	480	
November - - -	521	
December - - -	500	
Grand total -	5,119	

No. 7.

TABLE showing the average Range of the Thermometer at Cape Coast Castle during the Year 1858.

Months.	Maximum Degrees.	Minimum Degrees.	Remarks.
January - - -	84	79	Harmattan wind throughout.
February - - -	86	83	1st week fine; 2d, thunder and lightning. Heavy rain once.
March - - -	85	83	Mostly fine. Rain twice.
April - - -	87	82	2 tornadoes. Frequent rain.
May - - -	85	75	2 tornadoes. Heavy rain.
June - - -	83	78	1 tornado. Frequent heavy rains.
July - - -	79	74	Uncertain, and light rains frequent.
August - - -	79	74	Overcast and mild. Slight rains. Latter part fine.
September - - -	81	77	Alternations of fine and rainy weather.
October - - -	84	79	Early part fine, then rain. 1 tornado. Latter part fine.
November - - -	86	81	2 tornadoes. Occasionally rain and westerly breezes.
December - - -	86	82	1 tornado. Fine rains and moist. Westerly; fine and hazy.

The Thermometer suspended against the wall between windows looking south by east.

No. 8.

During the months of March, April, May, and June the barometer ranged as follows:—
29·90 in. to 30·05 in., or little more than the 10th of an inch.
There was no opportunity of observing the rise and fall of the barometer for the other months of the year, because the instrument from which those observations were taken did not arrive in these settlements until the middle of last February.

No. 9.

PREVAILING WINDS observed at Cape Coast during the Year.

December - } The Harmattan, an east-north-east wind, and south-westerly winds. Land winds at night,
January - } varying west-by-north to north-north-west.
February - }
March - - Tornadoes occur in March.
April - - } In the early part of the morning north-westerly; during the day south-westerly to westerly.
May - - } Tornadoes in April.
June - - }
July - - }
August - - } Westerly and south-westerly winds. Land wind seldom blows during these months.
September - }
October - - } South-west breezes from the sea, with land winds from north-west.
November - }

GOLD COAST. The line of coast is generally washed by a terrific surf in the months of May, June, July, and August, but the ocean is often very rough for days together in March and the other months, boats and canoes being at such times prevented from putting to sea. While, however, the Harmattan wind prevails the sea is calm, and the industrious fishermen can at that season ply their vocation with safety, whereas at other times they are exposed to be overtaken by the storms and gusts of wind which are then so apt suddenly to appear in these latitudes.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1.

OBSERVATIONS on the ETUA TREE.

The tree which bears the leaves and fruit is called by the Fantees "Etua," and is found growing in several districts of these settlements. It attains a height of 18 feet or more, and belongs to the class aurantiaceæ. The fruit, which is in its transverse section of an oblate shape, hangs from the tree by a rounded cord-like stem, sixteen and a half inches long. The length of the fruit is sixteen and a half inches; circumference, in the centre, eleven inches, and at the upper and lower ends ten and a half inches; while the diameter is three three-fourth inches. A tough greenish brown rind, with dark spots, encloses the fruit, which closely adheres to the cortex. A vertical section shows that the close-grained nearly dried fleshy fruit is of a reddish brown colour, the seeds being imbedded in a fibrous and tenacious substance. In taste and flavour the fruit is strongly but not unpleasantly astringent; the rind less so; but the bark of the tree is strongly astringent. It seems to me highly probable that the Etua tree is closely allied to if not identical with the bael or bela tree. But whether this turn out to be the case or otherwise, I feel satisfied that the bark of the Etua tree will be found a medicine of great value in the treatment of diarrhœa and dysentery. I shall, however, take the earliest opportunity of submitting specimens of the Etua tree to practical botanists, to put the question beyond doubt, although in my own mind satisfied of the identity of the bela and Etua trees. Should my opinion be confirmed, it will show that the Hindoo and Negro race have equally esteemed it as a sovereign cure for dysentery for countless ages, although the former people generally prefer using the unripe fruit, while the latter only use the bark. On the Gold Coast the fruit is fetish, and is employed by the wily fetish men and women as a charm. When it is so used, the fresh fruit is painted in alternate stripes of red, white, and black. The colours are composed of ochre, chalk, and charcoal. Thus prepared, the fruit is transfixed to the earth, either in the pathways, house, or about the house of the party who consults the fetish man or woman, as may be directed. Sometimes the fruit is painted entirely black, and then dotted all over with red and white spots, when it is used in a similar manner. This ceremony is an invocation to the fetish to discover the remedy which is suitable to cure the disease of the person seeking advice from the fetish man or woman.

Enclosure No. 2.

Wesleyan Mission House, Cape Coast,
May 31, 1859.

SIR,

In reply to your communication of the 2d instant, I beg to remark—

1. That the Wesleyan missionaries of this district, both European and native, continue to exert themselves to promote the best interests of the people in various parts of the Gold and Slave Coasts, and although their success is not commensurate to their desires they have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making some degree of progress.

2. That from opportunities which I have had of observing the working of the system of instruction hitherto pursued in the interior schools, I am of opinion that education will never be appreciated by the natives of the interior until it is imparted in their own language; and I hope soon to be able to take such measures as, I think, will give the matter a trial. I am fully aware that nothing beyond the merest elementary instruction in the native tongue can for some time be attempted; but I entertain no doubt as to ultimate results. I wish it to be understood that I do not consider these remarks altogether applicable to the schools in those towns on the coast where the English language is pretty generally spoken. In these, if the children are not taught exclusively in English it must at least continue to be the chief medium of instruction.

3. That I regret that the unsettled state of affairs at Dunqua has led to the closing of the school at that place; the people seeking, as I suppose, in this way to be revenged on the native missionary stationed there for not espousing their cause.

4. That I also regret that means are not available for connecting with the schools in one or two of the principal towns industrial establishments, on even a small scale, being persuaded that such establishments, judiciously conducted, would conduce to the advancement of civilization.

The accompanying schedules are similar to those with which I furnished you last year. They seem to me to be as nearly like the printed ones as circumstances will admit of. The numbers in the last column of the "Chapel Returns" correspond pretty nearly with those we are accustomed to furnish our committee for publication in their annual report. They embrace the accredited church members, the school children, and all who statedly or occasionally worship with us. They are not put forth as presenting the average attendance at our places of worship, but as exhibiting the numbers who, as stated above, either regularly or occasionally hear the Gospel through our agency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. WEST,
Wesleyan General Superintendent.

To the Honourable Robert Dalrymple Ross,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

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GOLD COAST.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS' GOLD COAST CHAPEL RETURNS, 1858.

Name of Place.	Number of Chapels, &c.	Number of Persons it will contain.	Number occasionally attending.
Cape Coast	1 Chapel	About 600	Between 400 and 500
Beulah	1 do.	300	About 300
Providence	1 do.	150	150
Abakrampa	1 do.	250	250
Akroful	1 do.	250	150
Abaka	1 Preaching house	250	250
Dunkua	1 Chapel	200	200
Mampon	1 do.	200	200
Dix Cove	1 Preaching house	200	400
Sekundi	1 Chapel	400	200
Anamaboe	1 do.	200	150
Assafa	1 do.	200	200
Salt Pond	1 Preaching house	200	200
Kuntu	1 do.	200	150
Arkra	1 Chapel	200	150
Akrodu	1 do.	200	300
Maukasim	1 do.	300	300
Essiamau	1 Chapel	300	70
Domonasi	1 do.	300	70
Abuadzi	1 Preaching house	300	60
Ayerudu	1 do.	300	50
Sunkua	1 do.	300	400
Agaumeuru	1 do.	400	200
Denkera	1 Chapel	200	150
Akra, James Town	1 do.	200	50
Winnebah	1 Preaching house	200	50
Pram Pram	1 do.	200	50
Poni	1 do.	200	50
	28		5,600

WESLEYAN MISSIONS' GOLD COAST SCHOOL RETURNS, 1858.

Name of Place.	Name of Master or Mistress.	Salaries of Masters or Mistresses per Annum.	Salaries of Assistants.	Number of Scholars.			How supported.	Entire Expense.		
				Male.	Female.	Total.		£	s.	d.
Cape Coast	William Duncan	40	56	107	72	179	By funds supplied by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.	101	10	0
"	Jemima Anderson	30	10	16	2	18		65	2	6
Beulah	Henry Lemaire	12	6	7	5	12		46	0	0
Providence				20	15	35		13	0	0
Abakrampa	William Simeon	12	12	20	7	27		14	0	0
Akroful	Thos. Colecraft	40	9	9	11	20		54	0	0
Abaka	Samuel Gordon	24	12	38	6	44		34	10	0
Dunkua	H. F. Walters	15	6	6	7	13		29	0	0
Mampon	W. Z. Quaku	12	9	23	3	26		12	12	0
Dix Cove	Edwd. Mark	27	9	29	3	32		37	10	0
Sekundi	Charles Smith	50	15	161	36	197		61	0	0
Anamaboe	John D. Ekim	27	5	27	1	28		43	11	3
"	Mary Dawson	27	7	27	-	27		13	13	3
Assafa	R. Snyder	12	7	27	-	27		20	17	6
Salt Pond	Chas. Dawson	27	12	15	1	16		28	0	0
Kuntu	Joseph A. Fynn	50	6	42	5	47		63	8	4
Arkra	John Sarbah	23	6	8	-	8		29	0	7
Akroda	John Sampson	18	-	-	-	-		18	0	0
Mankasim	John Job	9	-	-	-	-		9	7	7
Essiaman	J. Attah	24	6	19	6	25		9	0	0
Domonasi	Richd. Acquah	45	28	37	21	58		32	3	3
Abuadzi	J. G. Daniel	20	11	16	-	16		74	12	9
Ayerudu	Henry Bernasko	15	-	20	-	20		32	1	8
Denkera	John A. Smith	45	6	116	23	139		15	7	6
Akra, James Town		23	-	17	-	17		57	8	6
Winnebah		9	-	44	3	47		24	15	0
Pram Pram		19	-	30	6	36		10	0	0
Poni		-	-	30	-	30		20	10	0
Aknamu		-	-	-	-	-		1	17	0
		664	219	884	233	1,117		972	6	8

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAY to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 117.)

SIR,

St. Helena, 28th May, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the St. Helena Blue Book for 1858.

2. These returns are satisfactory, but with the exception of the progress shown in the opening of fresh land for the growth of wheat and other cereals, and the very large increase in the number of children attending places of instruction, I find no point calling for especial notice for your information, beyond the observations submitted with my last annual report on the state of the colony.

3. The arrears of debt, which I found due on my assumption of the government, have been entirely liquidated, and the Agent General now holds an advance to the credit of the Island Treasury.

4. Enclosed are comparative statements of the estimated and actual revenue and expenditure for the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

1858.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of the ISLAND of ST. HELENA for the Year 1858, and the REVENUE RECEIVED in that Year, as shown by the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to 31st December.

Heads of Receipts.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decrease Receipts.	Increase Receipts.	Reference to Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Customs:					
Imports - - -	6,500 0 0	6,079 9 11	420 10 1	—	1
Wharfage - - -	2,200 0 0	3,884 19 11	—	1,684 19 11	2
Tonnage - - -	2,500 0 0	2,443 14 3	56 5 9	—	
Fees - - -	700 0 0	618 0 0	82 0 0	—	
Warehouse Rent - - -	250 0 0	235 13 2	14 6 10	—	
Permits - - -	60 0 0	63 7 0	—	3 7 0	
Water - - -	1,200 0 0	1,167 12 7	32 7 5	—	
Crannage - - -	90 0 0	142 17 2	—	52 17 2	
	13,500 0 0	14,635 14 0	605 10 1	1,741 4 1	
Land Sales:					
Sale of Government Lands	—	76 2 6	—	76 2 6	
Land Revenue:					
Rents of Houses and Lands	1,200 0 0	1,199 4 2	0 15 10	—	
Auction Duties:					
Per Centage on Sales by Auction - - -	210 0 0	610 11 6	—	400 11 6	3
Licences:					
Wine and Spirits - -	550 0 0	675 0 0	—	125 0 0	
Coffee and Ginger Beer -	65 0 0	46 10 0	18 10 0	—	
Game - - -	35 0 0	62 0 0	—	27 0 0	
Boats - - -	300 0 0	280 15 0	19 5 0	—	
Attorneys - - -	15 0 0	5 0 0	10 0 0	—	
Auctioneers - - -	30 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	—	
Notaries - - -	5 0 0	10 0 0	—	5 0 0	
	1,000 0 0	1,094 5 0	62 15 0	157 0 0	
Totals of Heads carried forward	15,910 0 0	17,616 17 2	669 0 11	2,374 18 1	

ST. HELENA.

1858.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the ISLAND of ST. HELENA for the Year 1858, and the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE as taken from the ACCOUNTS made up from 1st January to the 31st December.

Heads of Establishments.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Decrease Expenditure.	Inc Expenditure.	Reference to Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Governor - - -	2,078 0 0	2,102 16 9	—	24 16 9	
Colonial Secretary and Auditor - - -	1,269 0 0	1,117 7 9	151 8 3	—	
Treasurer - - -	565 0 0	499 10 0	65 10 0	—	
Surveyor and Civil Engineer - - -	1,189 14 2	1,172 19 2	16 15 0	—	
Collector of Customs - - -	1,427 4 2	1,517 8 5½	—	90 4 3½	1
Postmaster - - -	180 0 0	225 16 8	—	45 16 8	2
Supreme Court - - -	1,295 0 0	1,190 0 0	105 0 0	—	3
Summary Court - - -	1,244 10 0	1,242 10 11½	1 19 0½	—	
Ecclesiastical Establishment - - -	715 1 0	705 17 0	9 4 0	—	
Education - - -	530 0 0	490 0 0	40 0 0	—	
Medical - - -	944 2 6	935 18 6	8 4 0	—	
Gaol - - -	228 18 0	341 10 0	—	112 12 0	3
Militia - - -	465 0 7	441 0 2½	24 0 4½	—	
Pensions - - -	730 17 1	366 4 2	364 12 11	—	
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishments - - -	16 0 0	16 3 3	—	0 3 3	
Administration of Justice, ditto - - -	80 0 0	72 0 6	7 19 6	—	
Hospitals, ditto - - -	330 0 0	1,096 7 9½	—	266 7 9½	4
Police and Gaols - - -	435 0 0	427 6 3½	7 13 8½	—	
Rent - - -	49 10 9	49 10 9	—	—	
Conveyance of Mails - - -	2 10 0	—	2 10 0	—	
Works and Buildings - - -	1,135 15 0	1,197 7 4½	—	61 12 4½	5
Roads, Streets, and Bridges - - -	600 0 0	582 7 7	17 12 5	—	
Miscellaneous Services - - -	—	—	—	—	
Interest - - -	—	—	—	—	
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties - - -	5 0 0	7 10 0	—	2 10 0	
Special Disbursements - - -	140 0 0	3,073 2 1	—	2,933 2 1	6
[Not including Widows and Orphans Fund.]	16,156 3 3	18,870 19 3	822 9 2½	3,537 5 2½	
		Deduct Decrease - - -	822 9 2½		
		Net Increase - - -	£ 2,714 16 0		

Saint Helena Audit Office,
31st March 1859.

R. C. PENNELL,
Auditor.

REMARKS.

1. Increase of Collector's Salary.
2. Increase of Postmaster's Salary.
3. The Marshal's Salary transferred from Supreme Court to Gaol Pay List.
4. Increase of Patients.
5. Increase Expenditure for Drainage.
6. Remittances to Agent General and Advances on account Board of Trade, &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from LIEUTENANT GENERAL WYNYARD to his Grace the
DUKE of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 43.)

MY LORD DUKE,

Cape Town, December 19, 1859.

In compliance with the standing instructions of your Grace's department, I have
the honour to transmit, herewith, the Blue Book for this Colony, for the year 1858.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. WYNYARD,
Lieut.-Governor.His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SCOTT to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 65.)

SIR,

Government House, Natal, 20th July 1859.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the past year,
1858.

2. It is a satisfaction that, in transmitting these statistical details of the colony, I am again enabled to report a continued increasing prosperity. The various returns contained in this Blue Book, when compared with those of previous years, and estimated relatively with the youthful status of the colony, will show a not unsatisfactory progress.

Finance.

3. With regard to the financial position of the colony, it will be seen that an increase has taken place in the revenue; that collected during the past year being 47,043*l.*, and during the former year 1857, 45,733*l.*, as shown in the statements of revenue and expenditure. These statements do not however exhibit the real financial condition of the colony, nor its actual improvement. They give the public accounts of the colony, in which are necessarily included many items, which do not in truth represent items of actual receipt. Thus, for instance, deposits, advances, loans, and all sales of land made on account of certificates of drawback, are, financially speaking, of a fictitious character. The following Table shows the revenue collected during each year since 1850, with the above-mentioned extraneous items excluded:—

Actual Revenue.

				£					£
1850	-	-	-	28,410	1855	-	-	-	28,463
1851	-	-	-	26,519	1856	-	-	-	29,769
1852	-	-	-	25,717	1857	-	-	-	41,065
1853	-	-	-	28,081	1858	-	-	-	42,815
1854	-	-	-	28,517					

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NATAL.

4. It will be observed that little or no increase took place during the first seven years. The sudden rise in the year 1857 is due to the larger receipts under the following heads:—

	1857.	£
Increase in Customs	-	4,385
„ Land Revenue	-	1,023
„ Transfer Dues	-	780
„ Stamps	-	367
„ Taxes	-	464
„ Postage	-	406
„ Fines, Forfeitures, &c.	-	3,163

The increase under this last head of service in 1857 was large and accidental, being chiefly obtained from fines imposed on the tribe of a rebellious native chief. If, therefore, in addition to the other fictitious items withdrawn from the revenue of that year as before mentioned, this accidental increase be also deducted, and similar deductions be made for the years 1856 and 1858, the actual revenue for these three last years, collected from permanent sources, will be as follows:—

For 1856	-	-	£29,124
„ 1857	-	-	37,527
„ 1858	-	-	40,860.

General Commerce.

5. The improvement in the general commerce of the colony is exhibited in the subjoined tabular statement, showing from the year 1850 to the present time the annual value of the imports and the exports, dividing these latter into “Colonial” and “not Colonial,” and also giving the amount of custom dues collected in each of these years:—

Year.	Value of Imports.			Duties.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850	111,015	11	5	10,911	13	0
1851	125,462	6	8	12,122	19	7
1852	103,701	5	4	10,003	12	0
1853	98,534	13	2	9,800	3	4
1854	112,492	6	11	10,816	1	8
1855	86,551	9	9	8,612	2	6
1856	102,512	4	7	10,227	10	4
1857	184,549	0	0	14,626	12	6
1858	172,832	0	0	15,904	10	11

Year.	Value of Exports.					
	Colonial.		Not Colonial.		Total.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1850	15,613	12	3	1,492	13	0
1851	17,423	10	0	4,493	15	0
1852	20,164	16	6	7,680	18	3
1853	26,694	0	10	9,764	15	0
1854	37,555	1	0	6,106	1	0
1855	45,126	14	4	6,916	14	0
1856	53,931	2	5	2,631	11	0
1857	77,844	6	9	4,652	4	6
1858	90,882	0	0	9,705	0	0

6. From this statement we gather that the value of the annual imports has increased from 111,000*l.*, in 1850, to nearly 173,000*l.* in 1858; that the receipt of customs during the same period has risen from about 11,000*l.* to nearly 16,000*l.*; and that the yearly value of the exports, which in 1850 was 17,000*l.* only, is now 100,000*l.*

Annual Development of Resources.

NATAL.

7. The annual development of the internal resources of the colony is shown generally also by the above Table in the column of "Colonial" exports. In 1850 these were only of the value of 15,613*l.*, until, gradually increasing in each intermediate year, they have in 1858 reached the value of 90,882*l.* During the same period the exports "not Colonial," have fluctuated in value; they consist chiefly of wool coming from the neighbouring republic, and of ivory brought from the Zulu country, and the native tribes further inland. These will, no doubt, continue to increase with the extension of the interior trade for which this colony, from its geographical position, offers a most favourable outlet; but no estimate of its probable increase could now be made. Much depends upon the personal energy of traders; and more, perhaps, upon the right government of the Dutch republics, which at present cannot be said to be on a solid basis.

8. The development of the internal resources of the colony is, however, more particularly shown in the agricultural and other similar returns; but these, from the difficulty of collecting accurate information, cannot be pronounced to be free from errors. In my former report, transmitting the Blue Book for 1857, I slightly sketched the agricultural capabilities of Natal, and more particularly its fitness for the growth and manufacture of sugar and other semitropical products. In this report it is, perhaps, sufficient to offer a few figures illustrating the advance made in the growth or the manufacture of staple products. And first as regards sugar.

9. In the year 1855 there was exported of this product to the value of 19*l.* 5*s.*; in 1856, 484*l.*; in 1857, 2,290*l.*, and during the past year, 4067*l.* But these figures, although indicative of progress, do not bear any reference to the quantity produced, the chief portion of which is consumed in the colony or by the Dutch population of the republics. During the past year there was produced of sugar 527 tons, the estimated value of which was upwards of 19,000*l.*

10. The returns of the customs and those under the head of agriculture show that arrowroot is next in importance to sugar, in the yearly extension which has been made in its manufacture. The export of this colonial product has gradually risen from 97*l.* in value in 1854, to 999*l.* in 1855, to 1,826*l.* in 1856; 3,135*l.* in 1857, and to 5,461*l.* in 1858. But, as in the case of sugar, the value of these yearly exports does not convey an estimate of the quantity manufactured in the colony. During the past year there was made 4,370 cwt. being of the estimated value of 10,706*l.*

11. The yearly increase in wool is for reasons which I stated in my former report but slow. Sheep are, however, gradually increasing in number, and their importance is now fully appreciated. In 1855 the number of sheep within the colony was 10,000; in 1856, 18,000; in 1857, 37,000; and in 1858, 86,902.

12. Horned cattle and horses have decreased in number. This has arisen partly from exportation; but the chief cause is to be found in a malady which yearly prevails in Natal, apparently only differing one year from another in the greater or lesser tract of country through which it passes, and in the degree of fatality which marks its annual advent amongst this kind of farming stock.

13. In my report accompanying the Blue Book of 1857, I alluded to the efforts I was making to introduce the growth of cotton amongst our large native population. I am not prepared to offer any statistics on this cultivation; it is still an experiment; but so far as it has gone I have every reason to look for success. There can be little question of the peculiar fitness of the climate for its growth, while at the same time its cultivation is suited to the mode of life and the rude agriculture of the natives.

14. The few details which I have given above of the advance made in developing the natural and internal resources of this colony do not, I am aware, present such a large change in figures as marks the steps yearly made by older colonies; but, estimated by their own relative value, they none the less exhibit a gratifying annual progress. It is not uninteresting to note that the quantity of sugar and arrowroot manufactured during the past year more than equals in value the entire exports of 1852.

Public Works.

15. The works formerly begun, with the purpose of improving the harbour of this colony by the removal of the sand-bar at its entrance, having being suspended until Her Majesty's Government should have given their approval of the plans, no extensive works have been carried on during the past year; the labours of the engineer department having been directed chiefly to the construction of new and the repair of the old roads. These, however, are perhaps the most important branch of public works in Natal, as

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bearing most closely on the prosperity of the colony. The following table shows the amount expended under the head of roads and bridges during each year from 1850 to the present time :—

present time :				£					£
In 1850	-	-	-	1,314	1855	-	-	-	1,452
1851	-	-	-	2,080	1856	-	-	-	2,671
1852	-	-	-	1,526	1857	-	-	-	2,523
1853	-	-	-	1,651	1858	-	-	-	3,693
1854	-	-	-	2,415					

16. These sums are small ; but I trust each year will permit a larger sum to be appropriated for this service. The amount disbursed is not regulated by the wants of the colony in this respect, but is limited to such an outlay as the yearly revenue and the many other pressing calls upon it will permit. Small, however, as the annual amounts expended for this service have been the gradual improvement made in our internal lines of communication has been not inconsiderable, and especially when the natural difficulties presented by the very broken, rugged, and mountainous features of the country are duly regarded. Not only have the old roads been improved, but new lines have been projected and are now being constructed, by which a larger and easier intercourse is obtained between the different parts of the colony. A new ascent of the Drakensberg has been constructed, and a corresponding deviation of a portion of the road leading into the Orange Free State has been made, by which the distance has been much shortened. This improvement will have a beneficial effect by the greater facilities it will afford to the trade existing between this colony and that state.

17. Much however remains to be done in this branch of the service ; few bridges have as yet been constructed, owing to the large outlay which these works require, and for years to come, therefore, as large an appropriation as the finances of the colony will permit must be devoted to the construction and the improvement of roads and bridges.

Land Grants.

18. It will be observed from the returns relating to the crown lands, that a large number of grants have been made during the past year. These have been made under a scheme of making grants subject to a moderate annual quit-rent, and under a condition of occupation enforced by an annual fine or rather an increased amount of the quit-rent in cases of non-occupation of the lands granted. The change was introduced in 1856, and was modified in the following year. It was conceived that under the peculiar circumstances of this colony, it would be expedient to give increased facilities in the acquirement of farms with the view of giving an impetus to agricultural industry, and of drawing immigrants into the country. The scheme has, however, been considered objectionable, and has recently been abolished ; and lands can now only be obtained under the formerly existing regulation of sale by public auction at an upset price of four shillings per acre.

Emigration.

19. Some years back a plan of emigration in connexion with this colony was established by a private individual, and a very considerable body of immigrants were introduced under it. It was, however, found to be defective and unsuited to Natal ; and for this and other reasons it was abandoned. From that time, although the necessity for an increase to the population still remained, and the great advantages offered by the country to industrial emigrants was evident, immigration almost ceased. With the view of again drawing the attention of the public to Natal as a field for emigrants, a small sum is now yearly voted for the purpose. The plan pursued by this Government is to invite immigration through the colonists themselves by providing a passage on easy terms to such of their friends or relatives, as they may desire to bring out. As an introduction to a more extensive scheme this has been found to work well. Those colonists who have been successful in improving their own circumstances have readily availed themselves of the opportunity to bring out their relations or friends, and thus a gentle stream of immigration has been again obtained of persons selected by the experience of the colonists themselves, and therefore more likely to be suited to the country and its opening prospects and to the present requirements of the community.

Mail Steamer.

20. The establishment in 1857 of a mail steam communication between this and the Cape of Good Hope has also been useful in affording a regular and direct communication with England, and in bringing this colony into greater notice amongst the commercial

classes. A proposal has also been made for the establishment of a line of steamers to run between the colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and the Mauritius, calling at this port. Such a line of steamers would, no doubt, largely promote the interests of Natal by giving it a direct steam communication with India and various other colonial possessions of the Crown. But this is, I fear, at present somewhat premature.

NATAL.

Native Tribes.

21. The native tribes dwelling in this colony being so vastly superior in number to the civilized inhabitants, and being at present the only source whence the whole of the labour employed in developing the resources of the colony is drawn, they cannot in a consideration of the present and future prospects of Natal be passed over. In my report on the Blue Book for 1857, I offered a few remarks on the subject of native labour, and I have also alluded to it in my other despatches; it is, perhaps, therefore superfluous to re-enter upon it in this report. It is a satisfaction to me that I can report the continued peaceful disposition and the contented condition of our native tribes. In the reports made to me by the different resident magistrates, each reports that there is a total absence of any excitement amongst the tribes dwelling within his jurisdiction; that all have paid the annual hut tax readily and cheerfully; and that one and all continue to show a willing obedience to orders and a satisfactory subordination to our Government.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.

Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through. The text appears to be organized into several lines or paragraphs, possibly containing names and dates.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. DENISON, K.C.B., to his Grace the
DUKE of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 89.)

Government House, Sydney,
September 23, 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the "Statistical Register of New South Wales," which has been compiled by the Registrar General of the Colony, and which it is believed will furnish in a form as complete as the old Blue Book, and more available for the general information of the public, such statistical facts as it is possible under present circumstances to collect.

The Report from the Registrar General, which forms the preface to this volume, embraces such a general review of all the subjects therein brought under consideration as will render unnecessary any comments or remarks on my part. I trust that your Grace will approve of the alteration in the form which has been adopted; which, while it embraces all the essential constituents of the Blue Book, even to the names of the persons holding office under the Government, has been compiled at a much less cost to the Colony, and being printed instead of written is more available for reference.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE HONOURABLE CHARLES COWPER, ESQUIRE,
COLONIAL SECRETARY, &c. &c. &c.

Registrar General's Office, Sydney,
August 29, 1859.

SIR,

IN presenting to you the new "Statistical Register" of New South Wales for the year 1858, I purpose prefacing the volume with a few remarks, to illustrate the more prominent and important of the tabular statements contained in it.

In the first place, it may be desirable that I should explain shortly the reasons which induced me to propose, and the Government to sanction, the changes which will be apparent to every one whose business or whose curiosity may have led them to look into former "Blue Books," both in the form of the volume itself and many of its contents.

2. The great bulk which the volume for some years past had attained (varying from 850 to 1,020 pages of matter, partly printed and partly in manuscript) rendered it impossible, except at great expense, to do more than prepare two copies for transmission to the Secretary of State, and one copy to be kept of record in the Colony, after lying during the session on the table of the Legislature. It had been the practice to prepare a smaller volume of condensed tables, under the head of "Statistics," for general circulation in the Colony. Upon assuming the duty of collecting and compiling the returns for the past year, I was invited to make suggestions for reducing the "Blue Book" to such reasonable limits as would bring it within the compass of the printing press; and it occurred to me that it would be desirable at the same time to amalgamate the two publications into one volume, under a new title; propositions to accomplish these objects were accordingly made to, and approved by the Government; and the result is now submitted in the shape of a neatly printed volume of 191 pages. Much extraneous and comparatively useless matter has been eliminated, many of the tables have been condensed and others amalgamated, whilst in some few instances the information has been conveyed in a more full, and I trust a more satisfactory, form than hitherto.

3. Although greatly modified, and I hope improved, it is by no means to be supposed that the volume is considered perfect—there is still room for the pruning-knife. The tabular statements are in many instances capable of further improvement, and as familiarity with the work and experience go on increasing, it may be hoped that the information collected will be conveyed in a more compendious, and perhaps, more simple form than I have been able to accomplish on the present occasion. The great difficulty lies in the collecting of the information so as to ensure that perfect accuracy which alone imparts value to statistics; but on this subject I have already addressed you in a separate letter, and I trust that the

great importance to which statistical science has attained, as illustrative of the condition and progress of society, in its bearings upon legislation more particularly, and the deep interest with which statistical information regarding the Australian Colonies is looked for, not only in the mother country, but over the whole continent of Europe, will lead to a higher recognition of its value than it has hitherto been thought worthy of in this Colony.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

Establishments.

4. I will now proceed to notice such of the tables as may seem to require comment or explanation for their elucidation. The Civil Establishments occupy 36 pages, irrespective of the index of names, which was added afterwards by desire of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. The frequent inquiries made at the Colonial Office by the friends of persons employed in the public service seemed to render this addition desirable. The return embraces the names of all officers in the public service, from his Excellency the Governor General to Clerks of Petty Sessions. By the suppression of six columns of superfluous information the return has been reduced to one-half its former dimensions.

5. The ecclesiastical return in its present nominal shape is one of questionable utility, and might probably be dispensed with on a future occasion. Like the return previously mentioned, it has been reduced one half in bulk by the suppression of useless matter. Some of the denominations, the Wesleyan Methodists particularly, have been backward in furnishing the necessary information; and I may here state that one chief cause of the repugnance of the clergy to furnishing the information arose from the inquisitorial nature of one of the inquiries; I allude to the amount of fees received during the year, a question with which the State has properly no concern, and which has been considered by the clergy generally as a most offensive interference with their private emoluments. I did not hesitate to forego this inquiry.

Education.

6. Under the head of "Education" the most noticeable feature is the addition of 103 schools to those in operation the year before. Of this number 11 are denominational; viz., 7 Church of England and 4 Roman Catholic. The National Board have, by the addition of a number of non-vested schools, added 38 to their number, whilst of private schools there would seem to be an addition of no less than 54. As regards the number of scholars, the increase will be found as follows, viz.:-

Denominational	-	-	-	-	-	936
National	-	-	-	-	-	1,838
Private	-	-	-	-	-	1,114
Orphan and destitute	-	-	-	-	-	37
Sydney grammar	-	-	-	-	-	78
						<hr/> 4,003
Less decrease*	-	-	-	-	-	3
						<hr/> 4,000
Add, 1857	-	-	-	-	-	29,236
						<hr/> 33,236
Total, 1858	-	-	-	-	-	<hr/> 33,236

The Denominational schools average 76 children; the National 78. The Denominational system cost the State at the rate of 1*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* per head; the National at the rate of 2*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.* The amount of voluntary contributions per head was about 4*s.* under the Denominational, and about 6*s.* under the National system.

The detailed return introduced into former "Blue Books" has been withdrawn, the information being supplied in the annual reports laid before Parliament, and therefore considered unnecessary of repetition in this publication. The children of educable age,—by which I mean the usual age within which parents send their children to school,—say from 5 to 12 years,—may be estimated at 48,000. The children educating are 33,236; say that 1,236 only of these are over 12 years of age, we shall have 32,000 to deduct from 48,000, which leaves the large number of 16,000 to the chances of home education, or of no education at all, which I fear, in most cases, is nearer the truth.

My efforts to collect returns of Sunday schools completely failed, no records were to be obtained that could furnish information of a useful or reliable character; but I hope to be able to collect statistics for a future occasion that will throw light upon this interesting and important means of instruction.

Monetary.

7. Under the head of exchanges, monies, &c., will be found some interesting returns, showing the amount of coin and bullion in the Colony; the amount of paper currency in circulation; the amount of deposits, &c. in the savings' banks; and the quantity and value of gold received at the Mint and exported from the Colony. The decennial return of coin and bullion in the Colony, at page 74, shows an increase on the previous year of 394,837*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, whilst the paper currency in circulation was 81,728*l.* less at the end of 1858 than it was at the end of 1857; and taking the average of the year, the amount of notes in circulation was less by 48,802*l.* than it was the year before. The rate of interest paid by the banks to depositors, ranged as high as 6 per cent. on deposits for 12 months, which is a remarkable feature in the history of banking in this Colony, whilst the rates of discount ruled, on the average, higher than they had done for several years past, reaching as high as 9 per cent. on bills having over 125 days currency.

* University, decrease - 5
St. Paul's College, add - 2

3

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

8. The rate of interest allowed to depositors by the savings' bank was 5 per cent., and the interest on moneys lent on mortgage was 7 per cent.; but, in consequence of the high rates of interest offered for fixed deposits by some of the large banking institutions, the trustees restricted the loans upon mortgage within narrower limits than usual. The following table may be instructive, as illustrative of the working of this interesting institution, and of the fluctuations in the savings of the industrial population:—

Year.	Population.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Sums deposited.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.	Sums deposited per head of Population.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1856	286,873	10,424	623,489 3 7	59 16 3	1 in 27	2 3 5
1857	305,487	11,269	638,480 11 0	56 13 2	1 in 27	2 1 9
1858	342,062	11,321	579,931 17 6	51 4 6	1 in 30	1 13 10

Gold.

9. The returns of gold received by escort from the different gold fields of the Colony, and exported (*Vide* page 77), will be found to possess much interest.

The quantity received by escort does not, however, comprise the total production of the Colony, some being sent by post and some by private hands.

The return of gold received for coinage at the Mint during the year, shows an excess of 20,443 ozs., of the value of 76,105*l.*, known to be the produce of our own gold fields, over and above what was received by escort, to which, if we add 13,973 ozs. on which duty on export was paid at the Customs during the year, we shall obtain 286,798 ozs. as the total produce of the gold fields of the Colony, and if we estimate this quantity at the Mint value, namely, 3*l.* 17*s.* per oz., it will give us 1,104,175*l.* as the value of the gold produce for the year 1858.

The total value of the coin and bullion exported was 407,521*l.* in excess of the export of the previous year. The difference in the value of the exports over the Mint receipts for the year was 177,647*l.* This may be accounted for, partly by the exportation of English sovereigns; partly by the export to Melbourne, of Sydney sovereigns, at the beginning of the year, in return for bullion imported to the Mint at the close of 1857; and partly, by the exportation to China, of gold brought down by the Chinese diggers, which would only appear in the Customs returns of exports.

10. It would hardly be proper in this cursory review of the gold returns, to pass over entirely without notice the disappointment occasioned to the thousands who, by exaggerated rumours of the discovery of rich auriferous deposits on the River Fitz Roy, were tempted to leave their occupations, and desert their families in search of fortunes. The sudden repute, and as sudden failure, of the Canoona gold diggings, form too remarkable a feature in the history of this year to be soon forgotten; but although the disappointment and distress occasioned by their failure were great, they have not been altogether barren of good results. The port of Rockhampton has been established, and a very rich district on our extreme northern frontier, which, under ordinary circumstances might have attracted little attention for some years to come, except as an outlet for pastoral enterprise, has been opened up. The existence of rich gold deposits on the western slopes of the ranges between Port Curtis and Broad Sound, is still believed in by many people who have had the opportunity of examining the auriferous indications with which the country abounds.

Gold received for Coinage.			Number of Sovereigns and Half-Sovereigns coined.		Bars and Ingots issued.	
Locality.	Quantity.	Value.	Sovereigns.	Half-Sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.
	Ounces.	£ s. d.			Ounces.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	272,825·65	1,050,339 12 2				
Victoria	61,996·31	252,387 11 2				
New Zealand	7,026·20	26,687 5 2				
California	60·48	211 15 8				
American and other coin	631·89	2,407 18 11				
Total	342,540·53	1,332,034 3 1	1,101,500	483,000	14,927·92	58,125 11 10

Manufactures.

11. The returns of manufactories, &c., with the exception of refined sugars, show a satisfactory increase on the returns of the previous year, but present no striking features worthy of special notice.

The slaughter of sheep and cattle for tallow is happily shown at page 83, to be reduced within very insignificant limits, and, looking to the decrease exhibited in the live stock return, at page 111, will probably very soon disappear from amongst the statistics altogether. It has been chiefly confined to what may now be termed "Queensland," and is still the readiest, if not the only available means, of realising a return from the large herds of cattle depasturing in the northern districts.

Mining.

12. The produce of the coal mines of the Colony is for the first time given in print, in the detailed form in which it will be found at page 84. Irrespective of the first half-year's produce of the mine at Raymond Terrace, which could not be ascertained, there is an increase of nearly 16,000 tons on the

production of the year before. The Australian Agricultural Company seem to have pursued their operations with great activity and success, having exceeded their produce of the previous year by 25,862 tons,* whilst owing to the temporary suspension of their operations, the Newcastle Coal and Copper Company have produced about 20,000 tons less. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The increased production of the Wollongong mines is a very noticeable feature in the return. In 1857, it was 6,200 tons,—in 1858, it was 16,218 tons. The † Hexham mine had made a very successful development, whilst that at ‡ Maitland has fallen off.

13. The decennial return which follows that just noticed, exhibits a rapid development of this important branch of industry, during the past six years. In 1852, the produce of the coal mines was 67,404 tons,—in 1858, the produce was 216,397 tons.

As an article of inter-colonial trade, coal forms no inconsiderable item. During the year under review the Custom-house returns show an export of 113,527 tons, of the value of 88,956*l.*, viz.:—

To Victoria	-	-	-	71,096 tons.
„ South Australia	-	-	-	10,493 „
„ Tasmania	-	-	-	14,301 „
„ New Zealand	-	-	-	5,598 „
				<hr/> 101,488
To foreign countries	-	-	-	12,039
				<hr/>
Total	-	-	-	113,527 tons.
				<hr/>
In 1852 the export was	-	-	-	24,794 tons.
„ 1853	-	-	-	51,501 „
„ 1854	-	-	-	59,297 „
„ 1855	-	-	-	61,484 „
„ 1856	-	-	-	84,086 „
„ 1857	-	-	-	96,457 „
„ 1858	-	-	-	113,527 „

The progress of our coal mining operations and of our export trade in coal, is thus shown to be highly satisfactory, and affords reasonable grounds of confidence, that when our gold fields are exhausted, we have a rich inheritance only waiting for development.

14. With regard to ores of copper and iron, mining operations seem to be at a stand-still, except in the Orange District, where, however, no great activity seems latterly to have prevailed, but cheap labour and facility of transport only are wanted to develop the rich mineral resources with which the Colony abounds.

Land.

15. The return of land sales shows an increase of 30,300*l.* on the previous year, but did not reach the amount realised in 1854, 1855, or 1856.

It seems that a total quantity of 169,214 acres was alienated at an average rate of 1*l.* 9*s.* 4 *d.* per acre; of this quantity 60,434 acres, or nearly one-third, were taken under the pre-emptive right at the minimum price of 20*s.*

I have arranged the old established counties by themselves, under the head of “Settled,” and the new counties under the head of Pastoral Districts, in order to show the large development the urban interests are making in localities which a few years ago resounded only to the bleating of sheep or the lowing of cattle.

16. In connexion with the returns last noticed will be found a return of mortgages on land, to which is appended, for the first time, a return of mortgages discharged, but these present no features calling for special notice.

The return of liens on wool, which follows, shows a large reduction in the number of liens, and a decrease in the amount secured, compared with either of the three previous years, which may be assumed to betoken the thriving condition of the great pastoral interests of the Colony, whilst the increase in the mortgages on live stock, to the extent of 312,944*l.* on the year before, betokens increased activity in the sale and transfer of pastoral properties. The discharges of mortgages on live stock will be found to amount to over one-third the sum lent.

Postal.

17. If the Post Office returns afford any certain evidence of the advancement or retrogression of a country, I think the figures exhibited at page 89 afford unmistakeable symptoms of internal improvement and development; but as postal matters are now made the subject of an annual report from the Postmaster-General, I shall pass on to the notice of what follows.

Crime.

18. The criminal returns will be found to occupy pages 90 to 95. They are published at greater length than has hitherto been the practice. Tables of commitment for trial, both in the Supreme Court and Courts of Quarter Sessions, have been introduced for the first time. The public are thus furnished with the means of comparing the amount of crime to the population in this and other countries, which the returns of convictions alone never could enable them to do. A minute analysis of the facts set forth in these tables is beyond the scope of this report—they would furnish matter for a volume; I must content myself with noticing one or two leading features. At page 92, the two lower

* The produce of the A. A. Company's mines at Newcastle, during the three years 1856 to 1858, was 249,799 tons.

† 1857 - 40 tons.
1858 - 8,010 „

‡ 1857 - 26,039 tons.
1858 - 5,332 „

NEW SOUTH WALES. tables exhibit the number of commitments for trial, and the number of convictions at the criminal sessions of the Supreme Court. It will be seen on comparison that there were,—

	Commitments.	Convictions.
For felonies - - -	234	119
Offences against the person - - -	62	35
Offences against property - - -	125	61
Miscellaneous felonies - - -	47	23
Misdemeanors - - -	53	33
Capital offences - - -	33	9

Thus we learn that, excluding capital offences, rather more than one-half the commitments for trial for serious offences were brought home to the parties, whilst of capital offences less than one-third were prosecuted to conviction.

19. Turning next to the commitments and convictions in the Courts of Quarter Sessions, at pages 93, 94, we find that out of 382 commitments for felonies, there were 181 convictions; and out of 111 misdemeanors there were 82 convictions; taking the two classes of offences together, the convictions obtained in the Courts of Quarter Sessions form a rather larger proportion to the commitments than was obtained at the criminal sessions of the Supreme Court.

The decennial return of the number of convictions in the two Courts, although slightly in excess of 1857, manifests a considerable decrease on any one of the eight previous years; and if the number of convictions could be taken as any indication of the decrease of crime, this fact would furnish no mean subject of gratification. We are not to suppose that the laws were more laxly administered during the last two years than they were during the previous eight, nor that the vigilance of the police was relaxed: on this hypothesis, therefore, it might be assumed that as regards serious offences, the moral character of the community has been progressive with its material advancement. Unfortunately in no country, much less in this, is the number of convictions to be taken as a fair test of the moral state of a nation, and we are precluded by the absence of proper data from making comparisons with former years as to the comparative degree of crime which the present returns exhibit; I must therefore content myself with comparing the number of commitments in New South Wales in 1858, with those of the only two earlier periods of the Colony's history which I have been able to discover.

20. In 1833, with a population of 60,861, of which 24,543 were bond, there were 727 commitments for trial for serious offences, that is, for felonies and misdemeanors; out of these I find there were 135 convictions in the Supreme Court, and 110 in the Courts of Quarter Sessions. The commitments being 1 in 83 in proportion to the population, and the convictions 1 in 248. In 1836 again I find the commitments were as 1 in 72 of the population, but the convictions are not stated, there being no returns from the Courts of Quarter Sessions either for that or the two following years. In this year, the free persons were not quite as 2 to 1 to the bond.

In 1858, with a population of, say 325,000 (for the purpose of comparison), we find 813 commitments, that is about 1 in 400 in proportion to the population, and 415 convictions, that is, not quite 1 in 800 of the population. So far therefore as these facts go, we have cause for rejoicing; but it is to be regretted that the criminal records of the Colony do not furnish data for the proper elucidation of this interesting inquiry, so that we might compare the gradual diminution of crime with the disappearance of the convict element from amongst us.

21. Referring to the criminal statistics of Great Britain and Ireland, the following table will show the proportion of commitments and convictions to the population in each division of the mother country, as compared with New South Wales. Taking the mean of three years, 1854 to 1856, the proportion of commitments in Great Britain and Ireland to the population was 1·32, and the convictions 0·92 per 1,000. In New South Wales, in the year 1858, the proportion of commitments was 2·37, and of convictions 1·21 per 1,000. The mean proportion of convictions to commitments was in Great Britain and Ireland, 69·7 per cent.; in New South Wales 51·0 per cent. (*Vide* table below.)

The statistics of neighbouring Colonies do not afford data for comparison with these results, and I regret that from insufficient data, the inquiry cannot be carried further on the present occasion.

	COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.		CONVICTED.			ACQUITTED.
	Total Males and Females.	Proportion to Population.	Total Males and Females.	Proportion to Population.	Proportion to committed.	Males and Females.
		per 1,000.		per 1,000.	per cent.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	74,768	1·32	57,752	1·02	77·0	16,913
SCOTLAND—						
Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	11,337	1·25	8,401	·92	74·0	2,832
IRELAND—						
Mean of 3 years (1854–5–6) -	27,899	1·41	16,295	·82	58·1	11,604
Mean of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND (3 years) - - -	—	1·32	—	·92	69·7	—
NEW SOUTH WALES (1858) - -	813	2·37	415	1·21	51·0	398

The proportions for Scotland, for 1854, have been calculated on the population for 1855, deducting the increase of births over deaths. The proportions for Ireland have been calculated on the population for 1851.

The small difference between the number convicted and acquitted in England and Scotland, and the total committed, comprises the persons found to be insane.

Insolvencies.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

22. As bearing upon the material condition of the population, I have introduced a table of insolvencies during the year.

The amount of assets actually realized cannot be given, and therefore the amount of deficiency is merely that shown in the insolvents' own statements. The deficiency will probably be nearer half a million than a quarter of a million sterling as stated. It is a matter of regret that returns for previous years could not be obtained, as they would tend to illustrate the commercial fluctuations and state of trade in the Colony at different periods of its history.

Meteorology.

23. The meteorological tables will have interest, as bearing upon the vital statistics and health of the population, and as serving to illustrate the climatic phenomena of the Colony, at different seasons and in various localities, as compared with each other and with other countries.

Agriculture.

24. I come now to the returns of agriculture. As possessing great interest, they are published at greater length than hitherto; each police district or portion of a police district comprising a county or pastoral district being separately given. Great pains have been taken to render the information as perfect as possible, but under the present mode of collection perfect reliance is not to be placed upon it; all that can be said is, that as a standard of comparison with former years it may be taken as a fair approximation to the truth, and I trust that the important interests involved in the question of agricultural production in this Colony will induce the Legislature to make some better provision for the collection of accurate data than I have at present at my command. The decennial table, page 108, shows an increase of no less than 32,930 acres under crop, as compared with the preceding year. Of this quantity the increase in—

Wheat is	-	-	-	-	5,554 $\frac{1}{4}$	acres.
Maize	-	-	-	-	12,691 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
Barley and oats	-	-	-	-	2,330	"
Rye and millet	-	-	-	-	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Potatoes	-	-	-	-	1,200	"
Sown grasses	-	-	-	-	11,113 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Vines	-	-	-	-	51 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
					33,049 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Less, decrease in tobacco	-	-	-	-	119 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Net increase	-	-	-	-	32,930	acres.

25. It is somewhat remarkable that an article of production like tobacco, of which there is so large a consumption, protected against foreign competition by an import duty of 2s. per pound, and for the growth of which much of the soil of this country is admirably adapted, should exhibit so fitful and declining a cultivation. In 1851 there were 731 acres in crop, with a produce of 12,530 cwt.; in 1854 there were only 8 acres under crop, with a produce of 260 cwt.; whilst in 1858 there were 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres under crop, with a produce of 715 cwt. This fluctuation in the cultivation of tobacco shows that it is not always a remunerative crop, and that a protective duty is not an infallible stimulant to native industry.

26. In the case of vines, on the other hand, it is satisfactory to notice a steady increase in the breadth of land planted, although the manufacture of wine shows great fluctuation, the produce being nearly 50 per cent. less last year than the year before. The following table will illustrate the progress and fluctuation above noticed during the last five years, viz:—

	Acre.	Wine—Gallons.	Brandy—Gallons.
1854	- - - 913	57,959	674
1855	- - - 1,030 $\frac{1}{4}$	115,614	1,426
1856	- - - 1,018	95,645	1,547
1857	- - - 1,128	108,174	1,414
1858	- - - 1,179 $\frac{1}{4}$	58,396	1,224
	5,270	435,788	6,285
Mean	- - - 1,054	87,157	1,237

To assume from these figures that the mean produce of wine during the five years was at the rate of 83 gallons per acre, would be a very unfair deduction; because allowance has to be made in the first place for the immaturity of a very considerable proportion of the acreage under culture; and in the next place for the breadth of vineyard planted for table use, of which no part of the produce is manufactured into wine, together, perhaps, forming nearly one-half the total acreage.

* In order to explain the discrepancy between the "Total No. of Acres in Crop," in the summary table, page 107, and the decennial table, page 108, it may be proper here to state, that in accordance with former practice the acreage in "Green Food," in "Gardens and Orchards," and in the column headed "All other Crops," amounting in 1858 together to 5,852 acres, has been omitted in the decennial table. I am not aware of the reasons for the omission, and it attracted my notice too late to be remedied on the present occasion. My calculations are based on the figures in the decennial return, but it is those only contained in the proportional table of acreage under cultivation (paragraph 31) which are affected, and that not very materially.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

27. In the absence of more full and accurate data, it is impossible to estimate the value of the return per acre, from the cultivation of the grape.

This is unfortunate, since there is no more interesting or important branch of Colonial industry, whether considered in a commercial point of view, or in its bearing upon the cause of temperance.

In the settled districts there appear to be—				Totals.
Productive	-	-	- 835½ acres.	1,016
Unproductive	-	-	- 180¾ „	
In the pastoral district—				
Productive	-	-	- 135 „	163
Unproductive	-	-	- 28 „	
				<u>1,179</u>

The unproductive is therefore a little over one-fifth of the total acreage planted with vines; but to what extent of vineyard the manufacture of wine is confined the returns do not show.

The average produce of wine per acre from the Camden vineyard during the last 18 years, making no allowance for experiments, which materially diminish the production, has been from 450 to 500 gallons. The average produce of the vineyards of France, which cover about 5,000,000 acres, is estimated at 195 gallons per acre; some departments producing as low as 50 to 70 gallons per acre, whilst others produce from 400 to 700 gallons. Up to the present time the wine growers of New South Wales have had little encouragement to seek out foreign markets. Indeed, the production has been barely sufficient to meet the home demand. Some of the Australian wines have, however, obtained an European celebrity, and there is every reason to hope that the cultivation of the grape will form one of the most important and profitable occupations in the country.

28. As so much interest attaches to the question of the production of food, and of our means of supplying the demands of our own population, I feel that I should not dismiss the returns of agriculture without entering somewhat into the facts exhibited in the tables, and attempting to educe from them information that will prove both useful and interesting to the community.

We have seen that the breadth of land sown in wheat exceeds by 5,554 acres that sown in 1857, and the produce is stated at 1,565,532 bushels, being 276,488 bushels in excess of the same year. This is so far satisfactory, but from the results of no single year is it safe to deduce facts that affect so materially the interests of the colonists. I shall take the quinquennial period, embracing the years 1854 to 1858, and I would direct your attention to the accompanying table, showing 1stly—The imports of wheat and flour, the estimated value, and the quantity and rate per head of the population in each of the five years; 2ndly—The colonial produce of wheat in bushels, the average price per bushel, and the number of bushels and rate per head; 3rdly—The export of wheat and flour, the estimated value, and the quantity and rate per head.

Year.	Population.	Imports.				Colonial Produce.				Value of Imports and Colonial Produce per head of Population.	Exports.			
		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Wheat.	Average price per Bushel throughout the Colony.	Estimated Value.	Value of Colonial Produce per head of Population.		Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of Population.
		Bushels.	Tons.	£	£ s. d.	Bushels.	s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Bushels.	Tons.	£	s. d.
1854	251,315	53,788	3,060	148,925	0 11 10	786,278	11 6	452,110	1 15 11	2 7 9	45,493	4,468	207,615	16 6
1855	277,579	836,363	8,025	554,404	1 19 11	1,335,446	16 5	1,096,178	3 18 11	5 18 10	32,724	2,830	126,036	9 1
1856	286,873	333,244	16,489	526,167	1 16 8	1,756,964	11 3	988,292	3 8 10	5 5 6	7,595	1,460	40,939	2 10
1857	385,487	260,364	10,580	331,577	1 1 8	1,289,044	7 4	472,649	1 10 11	2 12 7	3,680	1,299	31,129	2 0
1858	342,062	228,492	9,495	281,292	0 16 5	1,565,532	10 3	802,335	2 6 11	3 3 4	14	1,479	26,065	1 6
Average of Five Years		342,540	9,529	368,473	1 5 3	1,346,652	11 4	762,312	2 12 3	3 17 7	17,901	2,307	86,356	6 4

* Omitting 268 packages, weight unknown.

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29. In 1853 the crop of wheat was above the average, being stated at 1,384,541 bushels, or 18½ bushels per acre. The import of flour and bread was also very large, being over 12,540 tons, and the export very small, being only 1,250 tons. The stock of bread-stuffs at the end of 1853 was therefore larger than was required to supply the consumption, and the result is manifested in the larger exports and reduced imports of 1854, with which year the table commences. I shall forbear any lengthy remarks in explanation of the results set before you—the figures will speak for themselves. The average of the five years shows that there was imported, of wheat, flour, and bread, at the rate of 17. 5s. 3d. per head of the population, and that the colonial produce was at the rate of 2l. 12s. 2d., together 3l. 17s. 5d. It shows that we exported at the rate of 5s. 5d. per head, which leaves exactly 3l. 12s. as the rate of consumption of bread-stuffs per head of the population; and it shows that, deducting the value of the exports, we have expended, on an average, about 300,000l. per annum in foreign corn and flour, exclusive of rice and other grain.

30. The values placed upon imports and exports not being declared values, but arbitrarily fixed by the corn and flour dealers, the data upon which these calculations are based may, perhaps, admit of question. I therefore place before you another table, showing the quantities imported, produced in the Colony, and exported for every 100 of the population. For the purposes of this table, and for greater simplification, I have reduced the wheat into flour, at the rate of 45 bushels per ton.

Year.	Population.	Import of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Colonial Produce (in Flour).	Total.	Export of Bread-stuffs (in Flour).	Net Quantity for Consumption.	Proportion per 100 of Population.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1854	251,315	4,255	17,472	21,727	5,479	16,248	6·4
1855	277,579	26,610	29,676	56,286	3,557	52,729	18·9
1856	286,873	25,894	39,013	62,937	1,628	61,309	21·3
1857	305,487	16,366	28,645	45,011	1,380	43,631	14·2
1858	342,062	14,582	34,789	49,371	1,479	47,892	14·0
Average of five years -		17,141	29,923	47,066	2,704	44,361*	14·9

45 bushels of wheat to the ton of flour (2,000 lbs.)

* Wheat for seed is included in this quantity.

You will observe a wide range in the net quantity for consumption in proportion to the population in each of the five years, fluctuating as it does from 6 tons to 18, from 18 to 21, and from 21 to 14; during 1858 the stock seems to have been regulated by the demand, which manifests an indisposition on the part of importers to speculate beyond what was necessary for the supply of the current wants of the community. It is possible that the immense importation of rice may have had some influence upon transactions in wheat—upwards of 31,300 tons were imported during 1858,—a quantity far in excess of the requirements of the European or Chinese population.

31. In further elucidation of the agricultural statistics, the following tables will be found interesting; the first gives the proportion of acreage under the principal crops during the last five years, and the second, the produce per acre. The latter table deserves careful attention. It has no unimportant bearing upon the prospects of a large and valuable section of the community, who are engaged in or purpose engaging in agricultural pursuits. It being seen by the first table that nearly one-half the land under cultivation, taking the mean of five years, has been sown in wheat, it becomes of importance to show what has been the average production, so that we may come at the return to be expected from this description of crop, and compare the results with those of the adjoining Colonies.

STATEMENT of the proportion of the cultivated land under the principal crops during the years 1854, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

	1854. Acres per cent.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	Mean of Five Years.
Wheat - - - -	47·8	50·4	57·0	48·3	43·5	49·4
Maize - - - -	21·3	20·1	17·2	23·2	25·5	21·4
Barley - - - -	2·7	2·6	2·3	2·4	2·2	2·4
Oats - - - -	1·2	1·5	1·8	2·5	3·0	2·0
Potatoes - - -	3·8	5·3	4·7	4·3	4·2	4·4
Hay - - - -	22·2	19·0	16·0	18·3	20·6	19·2

PRODUCE per acre of each of the principal crops during the years 1854, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	Mean of Five Years.
Wheat (bushels) - - -	12·7	15·4	16·5	14·4	16·5	15·1
Maize " - - - -	30·0	29·5	33·9	26·1	34·9	30·8
Barley " - - - -	10·3	14·4	15·6	12·9	25·0	15·6
Oats " - - - -	16·8	19·0	14·1	13·1	16·5	15·9
Potatoes (tons) - - -	2·9	4·1	3·1	2·6	3·5	3·2
Hay " - - - -	·8	1·3	1·4	1·5	1·6	1·3

We see that the yield has ranged from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$ bushels in the five years, the average being a trifle over 15 bushels per acre. The price of wheat ranged from 7s. 4d. up to 16s. 5d. per bushel; the average being 11s. 4d. per bushel. This gives an annual produce of 8l. 10s. per acre.

But, as this was a period of comparatively high prices, it may be desirable to carry our inquiry further back through a decennial period.

From the year 1849 to 1853, the price of wheat ranged between 4s. and 8s. 6d. per bushel; the average of the five years being not quite 6s. per bushel; if, therefore, we take the mean of the ten years, we shall find that the average value of wheat was 8s. 7d. per bushel, which gives 6l. 8s. 9d. as the average annual return per acre; out of this has to come the cost of seed wheat, and of transport to market, &c., before we can arrive at the remuneration an agriculturist may expect to derive for his labour.

32. I do not think it necessary to enter into similar calculations with regard to other descriptions of crop; the figures will speak for themselves, and will afford any interested inquirer the means of deducing his own conclusions. It may, however, be interesting to show the relative produce of wheat per acre in the Australian Colonies. The average of the Colony of Victoria for the three years 1855 to 1857 was estimated at 23 bushels per acre; but in 1858 it was only 20·7 bushels, owing to the severity of the hot winds. This is five to six bushels in excess of the average of this Colony.

In South Australia, the average crop is estimated somewhat below that of New South Wales. The following summary of wheat averages for 1858 shows a mean of 15 bushels per acre, viz. :—

	Acrea.
Exceeding 25 bushels per acre, and not exceeding 30	804
Exceeding 20 bushels, and not exceeding 25	3,533
Exceeding 15, and not exceeding 20	21,365
Exceeding 10, and not exceeding 15	63,244
Exceeding 5, and not exceeding 10	80,175
Under 5 bushels per acre	17,909
Total	187,030

It is a very remarkable fact, highly illustrative of the spirit of steady industry and perseverance which characterizes the inhabitants of that province, that with a lower average produce than any of the other Colonies, she should far outstrip them all in her agricultural resources and enterprise. In proportion to her population, she has more than double the number of acres under cultivation than either New South Wales or Victoria; and in the year 1856 she exported over 22,000 tons of flour, of the value of nearly half a million sterling, the produce of their own industry.

In Tasmania, the average produce of the years 1857 and 1858 was not quite 19 bushels to the acre; thus, we see that whilst our average produce slightly exceeds that of South Australia, it ranges from four to eight bushels below that of Victoria and Tasmania. When by railway extension, facilities of transport are offered to our best wheat-growing districts, it is probable we shall find our average produce increased to not very much below that of our southern neighbours.

33. The maize crop holds a much more important position in the agricultural statistics of this Colony, than in any other of the Australian group, more than 21 per cent. of the land cultivated being under this description of crop, and the average produce being over 30 bushels to the acre. The cultivation of the *Sorghum Saccharatum*, and *Imphee*, is commending itself to our agriculturists. As a green crop it is stated to be most prolific, and valuable for its fattening qualities; unfortunately, the returns of this year afford no means of ascertaining the extent to which the cultivation has attained.

Live Stock.

34. No less interesting than the returns of agriculture, are those of live stock, as perhaps to a greater degree are we dependent for the means of living upon the increase of our flocks and herds, than upon the produce of our cereal crops. How then do we stand in this respect? The decennial return at page 111 exhibits a decrease of 38,060 cattle, 557,400 sheep, and 16,323 pigs; and this in the face of a largely increasing population of our own, and of a largely increasing demand for the supply of meat for the sister Colony of Victoria. I cannot help looking upon this decrease as a question of very serious concernment. We know that within the last five years there has been an extraordinary development of pastoral enterprise to the northward; and yet we find at the end of 1858, a decrease of over half a million in the number of sheep in the Colony at the end of 1854.

35. As of the agricultural returns, so of the returns of live stock, the mode of collection is far from satisfactory; great efforts have been made to render them as accurate as possible; they have been carefully compared with those of the year before, and wherever a decrease or discrepancy appeared, they were returned for explanation or correction. One very serious obstacle to the accurate collection of these returns is to be found in the feeling of distrust as to the purposes to which the information may be applied. Many proprietors are under the impression that it is wanted for purposes of taxation, and others look upon the inquiry as impertinent. Is it most important that the apprehensions of the one class should be allayed, and the ignorance of the other enlightened; but it is doubtful whether the accomplishment of these ends can be secured by the means at present employed. From the district of Molong, no returns at all were to be obtained; and the returns of the former year afford no satisfactory means of arriving with accuracy at the amount of stock depastured in that district, although they sufficiently prove that the decrease shown to exist could not be converted into an increase, even had the returns from Molong been accurately rendered. I consider it better, therefore, to proceed on the data we are in possession of, than to add any imaginary figures of my own to supply the deficiency. The districts in which the stock had decreased most are those lying to the west and north; and, in answer to my inquiries, it is stated that the decrease is attributable to losses from drought in some districts, from rain in others, and from a drainage for the Victorian markets in nearly all. The extent to which this latter cause has operated will be shown in a subsequent return (see page 166), where it is seen that the export of stock of which account was taken, amounted to 469,689

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36. We will now see how the matter stands, if we unite the returns of the sister Colony with our own.

In 1857, the returns show—

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	Victoria.
180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	New South Wales.
<hr/> 235,736	<hr/> 2,763,201	<hr/> 12,905,184	<hr/> 152,798	Total.

In 1858,—

68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756	Victoria.
200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	New South Wales.
<hr/> 269,036	<hr/> 2,809,934	<hr/> 13,160,175	<hr/> 130,599	Total.

Increase.	Increase.	Increase.	Decrease.
<hr/> 33,300	<hr/> 46,733	<hr/> 254,991	<hr/> 21,199

By these figures it appears that, with the exception of pigs, there is an increase in the live stock depasturing in the united Colonies; but it is an increase utterly inadequate to supply the wants of the community for food. The importance, therefore, of paying attention not only to the breeding but to the fattening of stock, is made amply apparent, and cannot fail to attract notice.

37. The export of sheep and cattle from New South Wales to Victoria, in 1857, was set down in the statistics of Victoria at—cattle, 102,062; sheep, 435,226. These figures are not checked by any reckoning on our own side; and a note appended to the return, to the effect that the stock imported “*via Belvoir*,” during the first three quarters of the year, was not included, shows that it would be unsafe to make any calculations upon them. It is probable that Victoria must look to New South Wales to supply the deficiency of animal food which the demands of her rapidly increasing population may create; and therefore it behoves us to look to the causes of the decrease in our live stock, and to make provision, by more careful breeding and management, to meet not only our own wants but the growing demands of the sister Colony also.

Population.

38. The gross population is estimated at 342,062. The table shows an increase by births over deaths, of 7,919; and by immigration over emigration, of 25,123, making a total of 33,042, or 10·69 per cent. on the population of the previous year. Of this number, 12,004 were Chinese, three-fourths of whom have probably found their way to the gold fields of Victoria. This, however, is a conjectural estimate, as there are no means of ascertaining with accuracy the movement of the population across the River Murray, whether to or from Victoria or South Australia.

39. The operation of the Act for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, has been most successful. The natural increase of the population by births is by this means accurately recorded, and its sanitary condition and decrease by deaths clearly established. The facts collected will every year become more interesting, and take their rank amongst the most valuable archives of the Colony. The results of the year's registration are as follows, viz.:—Marriages, 2,992; births, 13,802; deaths, 5,883. The detailed tables published annually render further notice in this report unnecessary.

40. There is one feature in the immigration returns worthy of special notice—it is the extraordinary expansion of the voluntary system. You will observe, that whilst 6,916 men, women, and children were deported at the public expense, no less than 17,823, exclusive of Chinese, came out at their own expense, or at the expense of their friends. This is a striking and gratifying fact. It shows more than anything the beneficial operation of the remittance regulations, and the prosperity of the working classes—that they are by their industry enabled, by means of those regulations, to send home money for the introduction of their friends and relatives. It is proper, however, to add that the excitement caused by the reported gold discovery on the Fitz Roy River contributed largely to swell up the numbers.

Imports and Exports.

41. The Customs returns occupy a large space in the volume. They possess great interest, as illustrating the commercial progress of the Colony, and showing the relative proportion that our imports bear to our exports, not only in each year, but in a succession of years. Statistics of commerce are not only useful and interesting to ourselves, but to every nation with which we have relations. They show us the wisdom of our fiscal legislation, as it is only by their means that we can judge of its results. They illustrate the development of our commercial relations with the other Colonies, with the Mother Country, and with Foreign States. They show us the propriety of the withdrawal or of the enactment of legislative restrictions upon commercial competition and enterprise, and the effect that either one or the other has upon the course of trade; and if it is allowed that commerce promotes the advancement of civilization, by facilitating communication between the inhabitants of the different countries of the world, by showing them how habitually dependent they are on each other for the production and supply of commodities essential to subsistence, to comfort, and to enjoyment, it will be admitted that a periodical investigation into the commercial progress of a country is not one of the least important duties of every enlightened Government.

42. It is to be regretted that returns of so great value, when carefully prepared, should have been kept in the loose, perfunctory, and immethodical manner which has hitherto characterised the statistics of the Customs department. Their value is very seriously impaired from another cause, which may

not be so easy of rectification. I allude to the stated values of the different articles imported and exported. These values are arbitrarily fixed by the Custom-house agent or merchant's clerk, and often without any regard to the real value of the articles and commodities; indeed, were any declaration of their value enforced by law, it is likely that it would be often made without care, and must sometimes, even with great care, be liable to error. It is clear that, under this practice, the *quantities* imported and exported must form the basis for comparison, in preference to the *values*, and in what few remarks I may have to offer on the most prominent features of these returns, I will endeavour to present them in this light. By the use of quinquennial averages, perhaps a nearer approximation to the truth may be obtained than by any separate calculations, and the decennial tables which follow the detailed statements of imports and exports afford a ready means of arriving at the results, so far as the more important articles of commerce are concerned.

43. Turning first to the table at page 117, which is intended to exhibit a general view of the results of our import and export trade, the principal features worthy of note are, first, the excess of imports from the United Kingdom over our exports, to the extent of over two millions and a half sterling; second, the excess of exports over imports (seaward), to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, to the extent of over one million and a half; and third, the excess of our imports from foreign countries over our exports, to the extent of nearly three-quarters of a million. The general total shows a balance of 1,873,089*l.* against the stated value of the exports of the year.

It is to be regretted, with reference to the table of imports from the Australian Colonies, that the Customs returns do not afford the means of distinguishing each Colony separately, the whole being grouped together under one head. This defect will be remedied by improved arrangements in the method of keeping the records of the present year.

44. The detailed statement of exports, pages 134 to 150, affords the means wanting in the other. A careful analysis produces the following results, viz.:—

	Colonial.	British, &c.	Totals.
To Victoria - - - -	£1,024,488	£821,211	£1,845,699
To South Australia - - -	19,699	4,469	24,168
To Tasmania - - - -	52,079	46,497	98,576
Totals -	1,096,266	872,177	1,968,443*

We thus find that of our own produce we exported to the neighbouring Colonies to the extent of over a million sterling, and of British and foreign goods to the extent of nearly nine hundred thousand, together very close upon two millions; with the exception of 122,000*l.*, the whole of this large trade was carried on with the sister Colony of Victoria.

Perhaps it may be interesting to show some of the chief items which make up this large export trade with Victoria. They are as follows, viz.:—

	£
Apparel, boots, drapery, &c. - - -	97,875
Flour, grain, and potatoes - - -	85,571
Green fruits - - - -	33,725
Butter and candles - - - -	36,527
Coals - - - -	52,693
Gold - - - -	1,241,419
Hardware, iron, and lead - - -	22,813
Sugar and molasses - - - -	103,049
Tea - - - -	20,189
Timber - - - -	22,622
Tobacco - - - -	16,861
Wine, spirits, and beer - - -	26,046

It is very much to be regretted that, owing to the defect before mentioned in the import returns, we cannot arrive at the balance of trade with each Colony separately. That the aggregate exports to the Australian Colonies exceeded the imports from them by more than a million and a quarter, is satisfactory to know, and we must therewith be content.

45. The decennial statements at page 151, in so far as the stated values are to be relied upon, show the following quinquennial results:—

—	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	South Sea Islands and Fisheries.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
IMPORTS.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1849 to 1853 -	9,311,845	1,199,958	195,774	274,716	1,471,473	12,453,766
Average -	1,862,369	239,992	39,155	54,943	294,294	2,490,753
1854 to 1858 -	18,175,509	4,457,286	385,298	1,415,478	4,465,756	28,899,327
Average -	3,635,102	891,457	77,059	283,096	893,151	5,779,865
Totals -	27,487,354	5,657,244	581,072	1,690,194	5,937,229	41,353,093
Average -	5,497,471	1,131,449	116,214	338,039	1,187,445	8,270,618

* There is a slight discrepancy between these figures and those in the table at page 117, for which I am unable to account, amounting to 227*l.*

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EXPORTS.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1859 to 1853 -	10,002,678	3,063,233	60,230	192,977	98,902	13,418,020
Average -	2,000,535	612,646	12,046	38,596	19,780	2,683,604
1854 to 1858 -	8,693,912	8,755,513	256,257	46,192	811,491	18,563,365
Average -	1,738,782	1,751,103	51,251	9,238	162,298	3,712,673
Totals -	18,696,590	11,818,746	316,487	239,169	910,393	31,981,385
Average -	3,739,318	2,363,749	63,297	47,834	182,078	6,396,277
Excess of Exports -	- - -	6,161,502	-	-	-	-
Excess of Imports -	8,790,764	- - -	264,585	1,451,025	5,026,836	9,371,708

Now what do we gather from these figures? We learn in the first place, that during the five years from 1849 to 1853, we imported goods to the value of nearly twelve millions and a half sterling, and that we exported goods approaching to the value of thirteen millions and a half, which leaves a balance of nearly a million in favour of exports, than which nothing can be made satisfactory. I speak in round numbers for perspicuity's sake—the figures we are dealing with being very large. Now let us look at the following five years (1854 to 1859), and we shall see the reverse of the picture. It appears that we imported to the stated value of nearly twenty-nine millions sterling, and that we exported to the value of only eighteen millions and a half, which leaves an excess of imports over exports to the value of ten millions and a half sterling.

46. Secondly, we see the extraordinary results of the discovery of gold, as they are exemplified in the imports of the two quinquennial periods. We find that during the latter period the imports from Great Britain were doubled; from the British Colonies they were quadrupled; from the South Sea Islands, &c., they were doubled; from the United States they were nearly quintupled; and from other foreign countries they were trebled. Nothing can so plainly demonstrate the advance in wealth which this Colony has made in the last five years, as the results brought out in the figures before us. Whether wealth so easily and rapidly obtained has been as lavishly expended, or whether these enormous importations evidence a wholesome state of our commercial relations with Great Britain and other countries which contribute to swell up the total, are questions which would require deeper investigation to determine, but which it is not the purpose of this report to discuss.

47. Thirdly, we see in the last five years, an increase in the total value of our exports to the extent of more than five millions sterling over the exports of the first quinquennial period.

The shipments to Great Britain show a remarkable falling off, to the value of nearly a million and a half. Whether this is satisfactorily accounted for by the opening of the navigation of the River Murray, by which much of our produce is diverted for shipment at Adelaide, and by the shorter distance and greater facilities offered for the transit of wool and other productions of our southern districts, *via* Melbourne, for shipment, must be left to the individual judgment of those who are interested in the question.

48. We see in the next column the extraordinary development of our inter-colonial trade, in the increase of shipments to the extent of nearly five millions and three-quarters sterling, to which we may add another quarter of a million for the increase in the South Sea trade; together nine millions or thereabouts; that is to say, our export trade with the British Colonies and Islands in the South Seas has trebled itself in the last five years. To the United States a large decrease is observable in the value of the shipments during the latter quinquennial period, viz., from 192,977*l.* to 46,192*l.*, whilst to other foreign states there has been an expansion of our export trade from 98,902*l.* in the first period, to 811,491*l.* in the last, which is more particularly noticeable in the last three years of the period. Taking the first period, we find the mean of the five years gives—imports, 11*s.* 7*d.*; exports, 12*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population; and taking the second period, we find the mean of the five years to give—imports, 19*s.* 8*d.*; exports, 12*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population.

49. I am reminded by the quantity of matter still remaining to be noticed, that to enter into a minute analysis of all the tables connected with the trade of the Colony, would lead me to transgress the proper limits of a cursory report of this kind. The small decennial returns of imports and exports, pages 152 to 156, are continued from former statistics; they were designed to illustrate, not the entire trade of the Colony, but only that in which foreign is brought into competition with home produce, for it appears that the export returns have been confined to articles or commodities,* *the produce of the Colony*, that is, to the quantity raised by ourselves, and exported after supplying our own consumption. I give this explanation, as owing to a defect in the heading the public have been misled into striking a balance between the imports and exports of grain, butter, and cheese, &c., as they appear in these tables, as though they expressed the total trade in each commodity; whereas, so far as I have gone through them, the import tables give the total imports of the class, whilst the export tables, as I have said, are confined to colonial produce, and do not extend to re-exports of any kind. Beneath each table will be found a note expressing the estimated value of the total export, both colonial and foreign.

50. There is one of these tables only to which I think it necessary to refer, and that is to the export of wool—the most important of the productive resources of this Colony. It is a coincidence not unworthy of note, that the staple product of England during the two first centuries after the Conquest was wool. Her commerce during that period was almost confined to the exportation of this great staple commodity, “upon which, more than any other,” says a great English historian,† “in its raw or manufactured state her wealth has been founded.” If there are any figures upon which perfect reliance may be placed, it is upon those which express the annual export of wool; and therefore, looking to the quantities rather

* The tables referred to include grain and flour, butter and cheese, live stock, salt provisions, hides and leather, wool and tallow, timber, coal, oil, and gold.

† Hallam.

than to the values, we are afforded a very accurate view of the progress we have made in the production of this great staple commodity.

The following table presents in quinquennial periods the number of sheep in each year, and the number of pounds of wool exported, with the estimated value, which may be left out of the calculation as of no value.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Year.	No. of Sheep.	Pounds of Wool.	Value.
			£
1849	6,784,494	13,396,525	663,965
1850	7,092,209	14,270,622	788,051
1851	7,396,895	15,268,473	828,302
1852	7,707,917	11,086,974	676,815
1853	7,929,708	16,358,869	999,896
Total of 5 years -	36,911,223	70,381,463	*3,957,029
Average of 5 years -	7,382,244	14,076,293	791,406
1854	8,144,119	18,976,300	1,181,956
1855	8,602,499	17,671,684	1,078,017
1856	7,736,323	19,200,341	1,303,070
1857	8,139,162	17,044,201	1,275,067
1858	7,581,762	13,553,835	1,126,486
Total of 5 years -	40,203,865	86,446,361	†5,964,596
Average of 5 years -	8,040,773	17,289,272	1,192,919

51. In glancing over these figures the eye at once detects the improvement that has taken place in the breeding of sheep, as exemplified in the increased production of wool. Without descending to fractional calculations it is seen that the average clip of the first five years was under 2 lbs. per sheep, whilst the average of the second quinquennial period is considerably over 2 lbs. per sheep, and if we take into the calculation, as we may very properly do, the increased export of wool, *viâ* Melbourne and Adelaide, the produce of *New South Wales* flocks, which the proximity and comparative cheapness of transit to those ports have diverted from Sydney, we may, I think, safely calculate the average clip at two pounds and a quarter to two pounds and a half of wool per sheep per annum. I am unable to account for the apparent decrease in the shipments of wool in 1852. There is no corresponding decrease in the flocks, and, therefore, it must have arisen either from the difficulty of getting the clip down to the ports of shipment—yet, if this were the case, we should observe evidence of it in the increased shipments of the following year, which we do not—or it must arise from a serious falling off in the clip, the effect of a bad season. A similar falling off appears in the exports of last year as compared with 1857,† which can only be accounted for as previously suggested, viz., by the diversion of large quantities by way of the Rivers Darling and Murray to Adelaide; to the increased shipments *viâ* Melbourne; and, perhaps, in some degree to a deficiency in the clip.

52. Looking to the returns of live stock in Victoria, and to the shipment of wool from Melbourne in 1857, I find the number of sheep stated at 4,641,548, and the export of wool at 17,176,920 lbs. Our own statistics show 8,139,162 sheep, and an export of 17,044,201 lbs. A comparison of these figures affords reasonable grounds for supposing not that the clip of wool in Victoria is nearly double that of New South Wales, but that the causes to which I have attributed the decrease in the Sydney shipments are the right ones, namely, the diversion to other ports of the produce of our southern districts for shipment to Europe. The sheep farmers would do well to look into the causes of last year's deficiency, and see if they can detect any other cause than that assigned above, for if I am wrong, the question is serious, as it involves a loss of not less than 350,000*l.* to the community.

53. There is one other point to which I wish to direct attention, before passing on to other subjects of inquiry; I allude to the development of our export trade in wool with the continent of Europe. Previous to the year 1857, the statistics of customs do not distinguish the *quantities* nor the *country* to which exported. The values only are given under the general head of "Foreign States." It is only since the year 1855, that any direct trade worthy of notice seems to have sprung up with the continental states. In 1856 the value of the shipments is stated at 71,764*l.* In 1857 we exported to Holland 362,600 lbs., of the stated value of 27,305*l.*, and in 1858 we exported to—

France	-	-	-	480,500 lbs.
Holland	-	-	-	492,597 „
Antwerp	-	-	-	168,124 „

Total - - 1,141,221 lbs.

which, at 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb., would give 99,861*l.*

* Value calculated at about 1 <i>s.</i> 1½ <i>d.</i> per lb.	† Value calculated at about 1 <i>s.</i> 4½ <i>d.</i> per lb.
‡ Viz. :—1857 - - - - 17,044,201 lbs.	
1858 - - - - 13,553,835 „	
Deficiency - - - - 3,490,366 „	
Allowance for decrease of sheep, 557,400 at 2½ lbs. per head 1,393,500 „	
Total deficiency - - - 2,096,866 „	

NEW SOUTH
WALES.*Shipping.*

54. As in some degree corroborative or corrective of the returns of imports and exports, the returns of shipping inwards and outwards are worthy of passing notice, and for the purpose of comparison I will take them in the quinquennial form adopted in the former case.

—	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	South Seas.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
INWARDS.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1849 to 1853 - - -	340,645	374,389	59,815	72,488	88,032	935,369
Average - - -	68,129	74,878	11,963	14,498	17,606	187,074
1854 to 1858 - - -	504,194	923,074	52,637	85,430	186,991	1,752,326
Average - - -	100,839	184,615	10,527	17,086	37,398	350,465
Totals - - -	844,839	1,297,463	112,452	157,918	275,023	2,687,695
Average - - -	168,968	259,493	22,490	31,584	55,004	537,539
OUTWARDS.						
1849 to 1853 - - -	146,484	453,034	82,857	58,336	224,718	965,429
Average - - -	29,297	90,607	16,571	11,667	44,944	193,086
1854 to 1858 - - -	157,800	1,155,689	57,970	29,924	450,673	1,852,056
Average - - -	31,560	231,138	11,594	5,985	90,134	370,411
Totals - - -	304,284	1,608,723	140,827	88,260	675,391	2,817,485
Average - - -	60,857	321,745	28,165	17,652	135,078	563,497

55. These figures, in the main, bear out the deductions drawn from the returns of imports and exports. You will observe a proportional increase in the last over the first five years in the shipping inwards from Great Britain, from the British Colonies, and from foreign states, but not from the South Seas or United States, for which I shall by-and-by try to account.

You will further observe, with regard to the shipping outwards, that whilst a decrease of nearly a million and a half in value was exhibited in the exports to Great Britain during the last quinquennial period, there is an increase in the shipping outwards of over 11,000 tons. The cause of this discrepancy is obvious. The imports (as has been previously shown) having exceeded the exports from Great Britain by more than double, a large number of ships were unable to obtain homeward cargoes, and cleared out in ballast, as may be seen by reference to the tables at pages 159 and 160.

56. The development of our commercial relations with the Colonies is equally exemplified in the shipping returns as we have seen it in the returns of imports and exports, the tonnage employed being nearly trebled in the last five years, whilst with foreign states the tonnage employed has been doubled.

57. The decrease observable in the outward tonnage employed in the trade with the South Seas and the United States is clearly owing to a falling off in the whale fishery; this will at once be seen by a reference to the return of fisheries, at page 162, which exhibits a decrease of 3,329 tuns of oil, of the stated value of 76,577*l.* during the last, as compared with the first quinquennial period.

58. Of the vessels which traded to the Colony in 1858, there were belonging to—

Great Britain	-	-	-	452 of 152,930 tons.
British possessions	-	-	-	456 „ 113,168 „
Together	-	-	-	998 „ 266,098 „
United States	-	-	-	70 of 51,234 „
European states	-	-	-	65 „ 29,695 „
French possessions	-	-	-	8 „ 1,687 „
				143 „ 82,886 „
Totals -	-	-	-	1,141 „ 348,984 „

And of vessels that left the Colony there were, belonging to—

Great Britain	-	-	-	130 of 90,927 tons
British possessions	-	-	-	980 „ 193,930 „
Together	-	-	-	1,110 „ 284,857 „
United States	-	-	-	73 „ 52,107 „
French possessions	-	-	-	7 „ 1,301 „
European states	-	-	-	64 „ 28,660 „
				144 „ 81,968 „
Totals -	-	-	-	1,254 „ 366,825 „

The carrying trade of the country is thus seen to be in the hands of British and colonial as compared with foreign ship-owners in the following proportions, viz. :—

	Inwards.	Outwards.
British - - - - }	87.4	88.5
Colonial - - - - }		
American - - - - }	6.1	5.8
European - - - - }	5.6	5.1
Others - - - - }	0.7	0.5

Overland Traffic.

59. The returns of the overland traffic between this Colony and Victoria, *viâ* Albury, are given for the first time. The tables will be found in detail at pages 163 to 166.

The total exports are valued at	- £574,550
against imports	- 349,951

Balance in favour of exports	- £224,599
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These figures refer only to the goods and live stock crossing the River Murray at Belvoir and Albury; they have been taken from the Customs returns of Victoria, and they are all I have succeeded in collecting to illustrate the overland trade between the two Colonies.

60. The imports and exports of live stock from and to Victoria, at other crossing places than Albury and Belvoir, are not given in the detailed statements, but will be found in the smaller tables, page 166. You will there see that we sent over the Murray to Victoria, at the places named, viz. :—

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
5,953	128,851	439,185	2,037	Exports.
577	6,122	7,850	-	Imports.
<u>5,376</u>	<u>122,729</u>	<u>431,335</u>	<u>2,037</u>	Net Exports.
If we value the horses at 20 <i>l.</i> per head, they will produce				£107,520
the cattle at 6 <i>l.</i> „				736,374
the sheep at 15 <i>s.</i> „				323,501
and the pigs at 40 <i>s.</i> „				4,074
we thus arrive at				1,171,469
And if we calculate the live stock sent to South Australia				
at the same rates, we shall find a further sum of				48,316
Making a total of				<u>£1,219,785</u>

on the export of stock during the year. It is quite possible that stock has crossed the borders at places where no records have been kept, and considering the great extent of our frontier and the want of proper officers to collect the information, it is more than probable that a considerable number has escaped detection.

61. As regards the trade with Adelaide, *viâ* the Murray and Darling, I have had no means of collecting information. That there have been large supplies obtained *viâ* these rivers for the stations on their banks, and that a considerable quantity of wool has gone down by the same route, is a matter of notoriety.

The opening up of water communication within the territory of New South Wales, to the extent of over 2,000 miles, by way of the Murray and Murrumbidgee, and to the extent of over 1,000 miles up the courses of the Edward and Darling Rivers, forms one of the most notable features in her history, and is pregnant with the most important results. The whole valley of the Darling, from Fort Bourke downwards, is now partly occupied with stock, and we may look for a large development of our pastoral resources from the facilities of communication that the navigation of this river promises to afford.

Public Works.

62. The returns of public works, local revenues, roads trusts, defences, &c. require few remarks for their elucidation.

The first of these returns has been classified under distinct heads, such as railways, roads, bridges, harbours, buildings, &c., for more easy reference.

This return is prepared upon the same plan as formerly, but it is defective, inasmuch as it does not show the actual expenditure during the year. It is, moreover, capable of improvement in other respects, but I have found it impossible to introduce the necessary amendments on the present occasion from insufficiency of data.

It appears by the Auditor General's statement that there was expended on "Loans Account" for sewerage and waterworks connected with the city of Sydney, a sum of - £73,988

Railways -	-	-	-	*137,484
Miscellaneous works	-	-	-	98,502
				<u>£309,974</u>

* Not included in the return.

Amongst the miscellaneous receipts in the comparative statement will be noticed the large sums placed to the credit of the revenue in 1857 from the sale of debentures, amounting in the whole to 345,055*l.*, whilst in the following year a total sum of 76,776*l.*, including 40,600*l.* Treasury bills, only was brought to credit from this source. I merely notice this to account for the large balance which the general totals at the foot of the statement show against the increase already noticed, but which cannot be taken into account as ordinary revenue.

65. With regard to the expenditure of the year, the comparative statement shows an increase of 28,034*l.* on that of the year before, viz. :—

1857	-	-	-	-	-	£1,543,328	14	4
1858	-	-	-	-	-	1,571,363	0	6

The causes of increase, or of decrease, are given as notes to the statement, and of the increase just noticed the following form the chief items, viz. :—

Civil establishments	-	-	-	-	-	£18,567
Police	-	-	-	-	-	49,671
Railways	-	-	-	-	-	51,467
Public works, roads, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	29,322
Surveys	-	-	-	-	-	16,329
Drawbacks	-	-	-	-	-	11,887
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	8,266
The chief items of decrease are found in the—						
Naval and Military allowances	-	-	-	-	-	13,296
Interest on loans	-	-	-	-	-	31,390
Debentures paid off	-	-	-	-	-	5,800
Immigration	-	-	-	-	-	49,571
Loan services	-	-	-	-	-	77,562

Public Debt.

66. The state of the public debt will be found fully set forth in the Auditor General's statement, which closes the volume.

It appears that, on the 1st January 1858, the debt amounted to	-	-	-	-	-	£2,306,150
that we paid off during the year	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
						<hr/>
Leaving	-	-	-	-	-	2,256,150
that we incurred a new debt of	-	-	-	-	-	540,940
						<hr/>
which leaves a total debt, on the 31st December 1858, of	-	-	-	-	-	£2,797,090
						<hr/>

Conclusion.

67. Although this report has extended beyond the limits originally contemplated, the subjects suggested for consideration are far from exhausted; I leave them, however, for the individual study of those who may wish to pursue the inquiry. Statistics when carefully collected and collated are replete with interest and utility. As with the merchant so with a nation, a periodical investigation into the state of the national ledger is not only interesting, but essential to the right understanding of the state and progress of the public interests; and I trust that the insight which this cursory review has afforded us into the condition of our national resources will be productive of this advantage at least, that we shall no longer look upon the social facts collected as a barren array of figures, put together without order, meaning, or utility, but that it will lead to a more careful study of them, and by this means direct us in our endeavours to promote the public good.

68. That there is much room for improvement I am free to admit, and I trust, for the mutual benefit of these Colonies, that with the hearty co-operation of the Registrar General of Victoria, of which I am assured, we may be able to produce a better systematization of those great social facts which in the aggregate form the truest, if not the only reliable evidence of the physical, moral, and industrial progress of a country.

69. Negotiations are already on foot for an uniform enumeration of the people in the whole of the Australian Colonies, to correspond with the period of the great decennial census of Great Britain and Ireland; and I trust the other Colonies, and also New Zealand, will cordially unite with Mr. Archer and myself in this important work, by means of which a multitude of prejudices may be dissipated, and the federal interests of the whole Australian group may be very materially promoted.

70. In order to place before you a complete view of the Colony's progress from the earliest period to which the official records extend, I append a table exhibiting at one glance the progressive development of the most important of her resources. It embraces a period of thirty-seven years, commencing with the year 1821; and it may safely be affirmed, that if any person at that day had ventured to predict the extraordinary advance in wealth and population of which the table exhibits such convincing proof, and of which the short history of the sister Colony of Victoria (the offspring of this development) forms a still more remarkable illustration, he would have been looked upon as a dreamer or a lunatic; but if we read the history aright, we shall hope for the future by what we know of the past; and not confining our views to the exigencies of the day, or to the restricted wants of our comparatively small community, but extending them into the future, we shall endeavour to minister to the advancement of the national industry, the elevation of the national character, and to the promotion of the federative union and prosperity of the Anglo-Australian people. Adam Smith says, that plenty of good land, and liberty to manage their own affairs in their own way, are the chief elements of colonial prosperity. If he is right, Australia ought surely in her onward progress to exhibit a development, that even the history of the western world will not be able to outvie.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.
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71. Having been desired to try whether the annual statistics could not be prepared at an earlier period of the year than had been customary, it is right that I should say a word or two on this head: I see only one reason against their being ready by the middle of the year at latest, but the obstacles are beyond my control; I allude to the difficulties and delays which are experienced in getting in the returns, and to the subsequent references and correspondence relating to them. If these obstructions were overcome, the compilation might certainly be expedited by two months. With reference to the present occasion, it must not be forgotten, that on the transference of the duty to my hands the services of the chief statistical clerk were dispensed with, and that the volume has been prepared with one clerk, at a cost of 230*l.*, in the place of two clerks at a cost of 780*l.*, being a saving of 550*l.* exclusive of the printing.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHRIS. ROLLESTON,

Registrar General.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, from the Year 1821 to 1858 inclusive.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools. of	Convictions.	Mills, &c.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under cultiva- tion.	Live Stock.				Coal raised.		Land Sales.	Shipping			Export of				Value of Total Imports.	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Year.
										Horses.	Cattle.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Value.		Amount realized.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Wool. (Value.)	Tallow and Lard. (Value.)	Oil, &c. (Value.)	Coal (Value.)					
1821	29,783	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1821		
1822	30,766	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1822		
1823	31,729	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1823		
1824	32,702	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1824		
1825	33,075	442	239	392	—	—	—	—	45,514	—	—	—	—	5,948	85	24,559	75	22,688	—	—	—	—	—	—	93,020	1825		
1826	34,640	529	278	502	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,596	62	17,178	60	17,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	97,866	1826		
1827	35,623	No Returns.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,274	103	26,508	63	14,501	—	—	—	—	—	—	114,510	1827		
1828	36,598	681	317	632	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,004	137	32,559	69	90,180	—	—	—	—	—	—	96,713	1828		
1829	41,450	680	336	615	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,710	198	37,342	168	97,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	110,126	1829		
1830	46,302	683	339	570	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	943	157	37,342	147	29,822	—	—	—	—	—	—	102,125	1830		
1831	51,155	911	436	615	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,597	155	34,000	165	33,232	—	—	—	—	—	—	104,739	1831		
1832	53,524	1,254	619	880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	194	45,507	—	—	—	—	—	—	103,968	1832		
1833	59,794	1,560	698	1,150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	213	45,702	—	—	—	—	—	—	105,004	1833		
1834	66,212	1,807	705	1,164	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	220	45,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	104,739	1834		
1835	71,592	1,803	744	1,453	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	264	62,834	—	—	—	—	—	—	105,004	1835		
1836	77,096	2,120	774	1,628	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	402	78,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	106,713	1836		
1837	85,297	2,270	916	1,799	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	409	83,004	—	—	—	—	—	—	108,301	1837		
1838	97,912	2,896	970	2,104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	100,340	—	—	—	—	—	—	109,900	1838		
1839	114,386	3,335	1,157	2,406	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	665	124,776	—	—	—	—	—	—	111,405	1839		
1840	129,463	4,293	1,631	2,884	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	648	134,776	—	—	—	—	—	—	112,747	1840		
1841	149,689	5,204	1,924	3,289	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	633	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	113,231	1841		
1842	169,889	6,333	2,511	3,717	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	114,501	1842		
1843	185,541	7,182	2,848	4,293	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	115,004	1843		
1844	173,377	7,956	3,115	4,711	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	116,853	1844		
1845	181,556	8,522	3,128	5,141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	118,693	1845		
1846	196,704	8,473	3,796	5,594	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	120,443	1846		
1847	200,009	8,910	4,161	6,034	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	122,289	1847		
1848	220,474	8,826	4,809	6,587	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	124,118	1848		
1849	246,299	9,842	5,365	7,379	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	126,002	1849		
1850	265,503	10,037	5,825	7,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	127,912	1850		
1851	287,168	7,075	6,175	8,005	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	129,818	1851		
1852	294,254	8,860	6,569	8,176	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	131,729	1852		
1853	291,088	8,663	6,761	8,511	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	133,639	1853		
1854	291,315	9,663	7,635	9,082	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	135,548	1854		
1855	277,579	10,344	7,778	9,262	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	137,457	1855		
1856	286,873	10,097	7,778	9,262	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	139,367	1856		
1857	305,487	12,501	2,902	4,846	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	141,275	1857		
1858	342,062	13,802	2,992	5,883	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,509	189	41,350	568	134,908	—	—	—	—	—	—	143,186	1858		

* The Census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, population as above.
 1828, population 36,598 (exclusive of runaway convicts, estimated at 2,000)
 1833, " 60,784
 1836, " 77,096
 1841, " 130,566
 1846, " 186,609
 1851, " 267,168
 1856, " 306,159

† The reduction in the year 1851 was caused by the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales.
 ‡ The decrease in the export of wool during 1827 is to be attributed to its low price in England.
 § The value of the produce of the Fisheries was not included in 1828.
 ¶ Price of land in 1825, 7s. 6d. to 10s. per acre.
 ** The minimum price of land was 5s. per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12s. per acre 1840-2. (20s. in Port Phillip, in 1841.)
 †† The number of acres granted to the end of 1858, — 3,080,481
 ††† Number of acres granted to the end of 1858, — 2,791,107
 Ditto sold 6,471,588

Total unalienated 300,000,000 acres.
 Total 3,080,481 acres.
 6,471,588 acres.

The Export of Gold produced in New South Wales cannot be correctly given on account of the quantity of Victorian Gold included in the Exports from this Colony.

Total quantity exported in	Ozs.	dwt.	grs.	Value £
1851	144,120	17	16	408,336
1852	818,751	18	17	2,660,946
1853	548,052	19	21	1,781,172
1854	237,910	13	23	773,209
1855	64,384	14	3	209,250
1856	42,463	17	1	138,007

No return of Coin previous to 1857.
 In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money, generally in Spanish dollars.
 Transportation ceased in 1840.
 The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above Expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of Convicts and Military.
 Gold discovered in May 1851.
 A statement of the overland traffic with Victoria was introduced among the Returns for the first time in 1858, viz. —
 Imports, 349,931. Exports, 574,550.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable SIR EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 79.)

SIR,

Government Offices, Melbourne, 23d August 1859.

I RECEIVED the Blue Book for 1858 on the day for closing the last mail, and was not aware when forwarding it that the usual statements of revenue and expenditure had been omitted, on the ground of their not having been finally audited.

2. Such a punctilio may be advisable so far as concerns the Colonial Legislature, for whose use these annual statistics are now printed; but as the queries and surcharges of the Commissioners of the Audit cannot materially affect the references I may have to make to the general state of the finances, I have had the statements in question appended to the copies of the "Blue Book" herewith transmitted.

3. The year 1858, if not one of brilliant results to this colony, witnessed its continued steady advancement, and must ever be remarkable in its history for the commencement of the great trunk lines of railway to the gold fields, which had been so long in contemplation.

4. At the beginning of the year the community was still suffering from the effects of the commercial panic which swept over Europe and America in the autumn of 1857, and though the rapid reaction which followed at home soon extended to the Colonial trade, the returns now sent bear many traces of the severity of the previous crisis.

5. Passing by those relative to the Civil Service, as interesting chiefly to the colonists themselves, the first table, as to the population, shows, for example, a much smaller increase through Immigration than in preceding years, a result owing in all probability to the unfavourable reports from the colony which had reached the mother country.

6. The increase nevertheless from all causes was by no means inconsiderable; the nett addition by immigration being over 18,000, exclusive of 11,000 Chinese, making altogether, with an excess of 11,000 births over deaths, a total of some 40,000, which brought the population at the close of the year beyond half a million souls. Of these it appears from the next table, precisely two-fifths were located in the auriferous districts of the colony.

7. In the social condition of this large population no striking change would seem to have occurred within the year. The first of the Returns which follows shows that the number of lunatics in the Public Asylum near Melbourne had risen from 349 to 451, but this is due to improved arrangements for forwarding such patients from the country gaols, where they used to be taken care of, and not, I imagine, to any spread of lunacy. Diseases of this class have been said indeed to be peculiarly prevalent in Victoria, in consequence both of the exciting nature of gold-mining, and the excessive consumption of ardent spirits; but the figures here given afford good ground for a contrary belief, since presuming 500 lunatics to be in confinement throughout the colony, it would be 1 in 1,000 of its population, whereas in the British Isles it is stated at 1 in 700 at the least.

8. The number of suicides was one above that of the preceding year, 60 instead of 59, but the ratio is not large.

9. Returns connected with the intellectual advancement of the people come next in the regular order. The number of letters and newspapers passed through the post-office shows an enormous increase, doubtless through the greater facilities every day offered. The former now exceeds five millions, whilst the latter falls little short of the same number.

10. The number of churches and chapels might at first sight be supposed, from the next Return, to have diminished since 1857, but this arises merely from the separation in an additional column of such buildings as are not exclusively devoted to religious purposes, which in a newly settled country are, of course, numerous. Disregarding this new mode of classification, there is an increase from 587 to 647 in the year.

11. The Returns as to schools evince equally satisfactory progress. The total number of children receiving education rose from 36,681 to 42,432. At private schools the

increase was trifling—3,437 to 3,545; the great extension being on the part of the two systems supported simultaneously by the State; the Denominational School Board increasing its schools from 439 to 456, and the attendance at them from 27,124 to 30,553, whilst the National Board, extending its operations in even more rapid proportion, raised its schools from 101 to 139, its scholars from 6,113 to 8,334. So keen, indeed, was the competition between the rival systems for the annual public grant, that it spread to Parliament itself, nearly leading to a collision between the two Houses, if not to a change of ministry, just as the session was over; but at the same time convincing those who view the question as one of higher moment than mere party politics that a speedy amalgamation of the two systems is essentially necessary.

12. There is one other Return, a few pages further on, to which I may advert in connection with this part of my subject, that, namely, of the number of visitors to the Public Library in Melbourne, one of the most creditable and extraordinary institutions in the world, as it is really what its name imports—free to everybody who chooses to enter and take down a book from its shelves without let or hindrance of any sort. The visits augmented from 49,227 to 77,928 within the year, and will no doubt become more and more numerous still, as a new wing, of what when complete will be a very handsome structure, was publicly opened by me upon Her Majesty's birthday, and additions are daily made to the collection which it is expected will by the 31st December next amount to 25,000 volumes.

13. Keeping still to Returns which exhibit the moral condition of the population, in a less favourable light, I am sorry to say, than its intellectual, I proceed to those relating to criminals, and am disappointed to find that the convictions in the Supreme Court show a serious increase both of felonies and of misdemeanors. I think this is to be attributed, as I have before explained, to the expiration of sentences on the desperadoes who flocked hither from the adjacent convict colonies in the early days of the gold-fields; but from whatever cause arising it is an alarming feature in our social state.

14. The number of criminals executed for capital offences was 9. The particulars, now first appended in regard to each individual, will serve to indicate the heterogeneous composition of the population on the gold fields, where their crimes were all perpetrated; Italy, Germany, Sweden, and the United States contributing their quota to the number of offenders of British origin.

15. On comparing the Returns as to gaols and prisons, the number of persons committed during 1858 will be found a trifle lower than in 1857, and the greatest number at any one time in confinement was also somewhat less, 856 in lieu of 938.

16. The Stockades and Hulks contained likewise fewer inmates undergoing punishment for grave offences. The new General Penitentiary, still called the "Pentridge Stockade," is, I am happy to report, rapidly approaching completion under the zealous and intelligent superintendence of the Inspector General of the Convict Department, Mr. Champ; and as the various portions become fit for occupation, the Hulks in Hobson's Bay are abandoned, one only in fact still remaining in use.

17. Of the charitable institutions of the colony fuller particulars than heretofore will be found. Hospitals exist in all the principal towns, supported partly by voluntary contributions, partly by grants from Parliament. Benevolent asylums, supplying, in the absence of a poor law, eleemosynary aid to a limited extent, have long been in operation at Melbourne and Geelong, and are about being organised in some of the larger gold fields towns, where they are much required. Four institutions for the reception of orphans are also in existence. Lastly, numerous friendly societies and benefit clubs have been established for themselves by the working classes, who wisely prefer depending on their own exertions to receiving assistance in the shape of charity from others. The continued increase of depositors in the various savings banks, with the large amount deposited during the year (362,678*l.*), also furnishes favourable testimony to the provident habits of many of their number.

18. Two other Returns, bearing on the condition of a part of the population, will lead naturally to the consideration of those more directly illustrative of the material progress of the colony. The first shows the number of civil cases tried in the Supreme Court to have been somewhat smaller than in the previous year, so that litigation is not apparently on the increase. By the second it would seem that the number of insolvents was more than trebled—646 as compared with 210 in 1857; but this must not be attributed simply to the disastrous state of trade, as might be inferred; indeed, from the fact of the total liabilities in the schedules of 1858 being actually smaller, say 780,000*l.* as against 846,000*l.* in 1857, whilst the estimated value of assets was considerably larger, it is clearly referable, on the contrary, to the passing of "Fellows's Act," as it is popularly termed, in November 1857, whereby the jurisdiction of justices was extended to debts

(No. 29—"for the more easy recovery of certain Debts and Demands.")

VICTORIA. not exceeding 20%, many being thus driven into the Insolvent Court to avoid imprisonment, who had heretofore managed to set the law at defiance.

19. The Return of mortgages on land indicates that the system of buying it with borrowed capital still continues, and will no doubt do so in the present phase of the land question; the squatter when the best portion of his run is surveyed for sale, bidding not merely as far as his ready money will permit, but drawing to the utmost on his credit with the banks, an unhealthy practice, even though the advance be soon paid off; as, whilst a large capital is thus locked up in the station, neither the wool nor the stock are thereby rendered more profitable. As such accommodation is frequently renewed, and the deeds re-registered, the annual returns afford but little clue to the extent to which the land of the colony is actually mortgaged; but it must be enormous, as the sums registered in 1858 alone amounted to 1,800,000/.

20. Another unusual, though perhaps more legitimate, feature in colonial business, is exemplified in the succeeding Return of "Preferable Liens on Wool and Mortgages on Live Stock," which fell little short of a million within the year. When it is considered that in 1850, the year prior to the gold discovery, the mortgages registered on all descriptions of property were under 380,000/., or but a tithe of the present amount, some idea may be formed of the wealth which has been realised by the lending class, and of the stimulus in consequence given to trade. The banks alone on 31st December 1858, held 6,000,000/., on deposit, which, of course, they had to re-employ.

21. As the business of these institutions is the best index of the state of the money market, it may be well to remark, although the only Returns in connection with them in the Blue Book relate to "the Course of Exchange," and to "the Amount of Paper Currency," that their position was extremely flourishing at the end of the year. By the month of June, in fact, the effects of the commercial crisis had been so entirely surmounted by prudent management, that six of the principal banks felt themselves at liberty to undertake heavy responsibilities towards the Colonial Government in connection with the Railway Loan, and though, as will be seen from the following comparison, their issue of notes did not rise to its previous aggregate, they were able to do so without any appreciable contraction of accommodation to the general public.

	31st Dec. 1857.	31st Dec. 1858.
	£	£
Deposits in the Banks	6,100,000	5,908,000
Notes in circulation	2,280,000	2,005,000
Total of Liabilities	8,730,000	8,212,000
Coin and Bullion in Banks	2,556,000	2,693,000
Debts due to the Banks	8,125,000	8,154,000
Total of Assets	11,862,000	11,851,000

22. The finances of the colony will be found from the accounts now transmitted in an equally sound state.

	£
The total Receipts of Revenue for and during the year amounted to	2,944,612
The Expenditure for 1858 brought to account within the year was but	2,365,855
thus leaving	578,757

to meet claims for the last quarter liquidated in 1859. The amount of these cannot yet be stated; but as the expenditure for 1857, brought to account in 1858, was, after deduction of overdue receipts, only 494,949/., it may safely be inferred that the revenue of the last-named year not merely covered the expenditure, but left a considerable surplus to swell the cash balance at credit of the Colony.

23. This is extremely satisfactory, looking to the further fact shown by the comparison of the receipts with those of 1857, that, owing to the reduced quantity of land put up for sale during Mr. Duffy's presidency at that Board, the aggregate included under the head of revenue was nearly 300,000/., less, and would in fact have exceeded half a million in deficiency but for the increased assessment levied upon the squatters. Putting both these disturbing causes aside, the actual revenue of the two years was as nearly as may be on a par, the increase in the customs and postage in 1858 counterbalancing a decrease in the items classed as Miscellaneous.

24. Notwithstanding the increase just alluded to in receipts for duty on imported goods, the value of imports in 1858 was, as might have been anticipated from the crisis at home, much below that of 1857. The value of exports too was less, though not in

the same ratio, the decline being altogether in raw gold and specie, other articles showing an increase, especially wool. The comparison stands on the whole thus :

VICTORIA.

	1857.	1858.
Imports - - - -	£17,256,209	£15,108,249
Exports - - - -	15,079,512	13,989,209
Difference - - - -	2,176,697	1,119,040
Value of Gold - - -	10,988,000	10,108,000
„ Specie - - - -	951,000	605,000
„ other Exports - -	3,050,000	3,275,000
„ Wool - - - -	1,335,642	1,678,290

It will thus be seen that the value of the other articles, the produce of the Colony exported, such as hides, tallow, leather, bark, gum, cattle, horses, &c., is by no means inconsiderable, and in fact it exceeds largely the value of the entire exports, wool inclusive, at the period of the discovery of gold.

25. Victoria, besides her auriferous treasures, is destined to be a great agricultural country when sufficiently peopled to admit of labour being cheaper, and the demand for the produce of the soil more extensive. The extent of land cultivated appears from the Tables given to be still increasing as rapidly as ever, the number of acres under tillage in each of the three last years having been :

1857 - - -	180,000	
1858 - - -	238,000	Increase 58,000 Acres.
1859 - - -	299,000	„ 61,000 „

The cultivation of wheat nevertheless does not extend, as it is cheaper to import it as flour from the neighbouring Colonies, and to grow instead oats and green crops. In place of so doing, a cry for protection has been of late raised in some parts of the Colony, and echoed back by the workmen in certain callings; but I trust the good sense of the community will revolt at the idea of a number of Englishmen settled on one side of a geographical line attempting to tax the industry of another set of Englishmen settled on the other side of that imaginary boundary, which in effect this proposition for imposing protecting duties between the different Australian Colonies amounts to.

26. Should no rash experiments of this sort be tried, there seems no limit to the degree of prosperity which this Colony would in the course of a few years of tranquillity attain, nor in spite of the grumblings on political and social grievances which are occasionally heard, is there in my conscientious opinion any people in the world who had more cause to be contented and happy than its inhabitants during the year 1858.

I have, &c.

HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Honourable
Sir Edward B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.

TASMANIA.

TASMANIA.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir H. E. F. YOUNG to the Right Hon. Sir E. BULWER
LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 46.)

SIR,

Government House, Hobart Town, June 10, 1859.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statistics and other information relative to the Colony of Tasmania, usually styled the "Annual Blue Book," for the year 1858.

It was received from the office of the Colonial Secretary on the 9th.

I proceed to lay before you the principal results of the past year.

Population.

The population on the 31st December 1858 is estimated at 84,420 persons—viz. 45,916 males, and 38,504 females.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony during the year is 4,003; of those who left it, 4,496; the births 3,138; deaths, 1,562; marriages, 779. The number of immigrants who were introduced into the Colony under the Government Regulations is 479, at an expenditure of 5,586*l.* 14*s.*, or about 11*l.* 13*s.* per head.

TASMANIA.

The return of convictions in the Supreme Court shows the number of misdemeanors to be 37. The felonies were 113. The number executed in 1858 was—convicts, 2; persons who had been convicts, 3; total, 5. The greatest number in confinement at any one time of 1858, in the common Colonial gaols of the island, was 134.

The Supreme Court civil cases were 34 in number. The civil cases tried before the Court of Requests, with jurisdiction varying from 10*l.* to 30*l.*, were 152 in number.

The number of persons declared insolvent was 157, whose liabilities were 130,693*l.*, and assets 44,212*l.*

The number of mortgages registered was 348, representing an amount of 231,153*l.* The imports from Great Britain were at the rate of 8*l.* 12*s.* per caput of the population. The exports to Great Britain, 5*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.* The total imports at the rate of 15*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* The total exports at the rate of 13*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.* The export of wool is about the same in 1858 as in 1857—viz., between four and five millions of pounds of wool. The agricultural produce and timber exported in 1858 was about the value of 495,742*l.* The sheep and cattle imported for food are reckoned at a value of 114,358*l.* The quantity of spirits consumed by the adults population is on the decrease. In 1858 it was at the rate of 2½ gallons, and six years previously it was nearly 5¾ gallons.

The number of patients treated at the different Colonial hospitals was 1,967, and the deaths 199.

Education.

There are 78 schools receiving public aid, to the extent of 10,711*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, the number of children entered on the rolls being 4191. There are numerous private schools dependent on their own resources.

Under sanction of the Act 22 Victoria, No. 21, eight scholarships, of the yearly value of 200*l.* each, tenable by Tasmanian youths of 16 to 20 years of age, at the universities of England, Scotland, or Ireland, were provided for by the legislature at the public expense.

The scholarships are tenable for four years, and the first two will be awarded in 1861, two more being filled up in each succeeding year. No candidate is to be considered eligible for a Tasmanian scholarship in Great Britain, unless he has obtained in the Colony the degree of A.A., or "Associate of Arts."

The conditions attaching to the scholarship are,—That the person to whom it is awarded shall, within six months after obtaining it, proceed to the United Kingdom, and at once matriculate at some university; that he shall continue at college until the scholarship expires by effluxion of time, or until he has obtained his university degree; and that he shall apply himself to the prescribed course of study with proper diligence.

The Tasmanian Council of Education comprises—

The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of TASMANIA.

The Right Rev. Dr. WILLSON, the Roman Catholic Bishop.

Chief Justice Sir VALENTINE FLEMING.

His Honor Mr. Justice HORN.

The Rev. J. G. MACINTOSH of the Church of Scotland.

The Rev. J. R. BUCKLAND of the Hutchins School.

The Hon. W. E. NAIRN, Esq., M.L.C.

The Hon. E. S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., M.L.C.

T. D. CHAPMAN, Esq., M.H.A.

MAXWELL MILLER, Esq., M.H.A.

R. OFFICER, Esq., M.H.A.

H. F. ANSTEY, Esq., M.H.A.

Rev. G. CLARKE, Congregationalist Minister.

Mr. Julius Hutzer, M.A. of Cambridge, and late Hon. Professor of King's College, London, has recently been appointed Inspector of Schools in the Southern District of the Island.

Lands.

The quantity of land sold was 45,059 acres, yielding the amount of 52,833*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* with an average of 1*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.* for country lots, and 7*l.* 6*d.* 2½*d.* for town and suburban, per acre.

The acreage held under depasturing licenses is 1,778,751 at an aggregate rental of 23,854*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The acreage alienated by sale or grant is 2,900,637.

The total area of the island is estimated to be 14,482,892.

The existing land regulations came into operation in February '58, by Act No. 33 of the 21st Victoria.

From February to 31st December 1858 1423 acres of township lands, 4440 acres agricultural, and 9403 acres pastoral were sold for cash, realizing 6,980*l.* for townships, 5,138*l.* for agricultural, and 1,950*l.* for pastoral lands. The sales on credit were 780 acres of township for 10,608*l.*; agricultural 18,941 acres for 25,736*l.*; and pastoral 7,573 for 10,505*l.*

For the selection of lands by private contract (for the last ten months of 1858) there were 838 applications for a total area of 111,206 acres.

Lands under rental have been sold at auction (within the same period) to the extent of 17,325 acres realising 20,882*l.*; and 4,201 acres were obtained by private contract, after being exposed at auction, for 5,220*l.*; and leases have been given of 112 lots with an area of 80,241 acres.

The Act above referred to applies only to an area not quite one fourth of Tasmania, viz. to about 3,601,287 acres, and comprises, in the opinion of the present Surveyor-General, its forests of large growth and its poorer lands.

The largest and best portions of Tasmania are beyond the present reach of the Act, because of exceptions arising out of antecedent land regulations, having an average duration of only about four years each, of which I subjoin the dates, viz. :

29th April 1828.
16th February 1832.
17th January 1839.
28th September 1843.
21st June 1847.
3d July 1848.
1st November 1851.
9th October 1854.

Between the years 1828 and 1836, the public lands of the island were granted away to the extent of 1,198,210 acres, and sales at five shillings an acre subtracted within the same period a further tract of 267,084 acres.

Prior to 1843 the waste lands were leased at auction; there was little or no competition, and the revenue was only about 600*l.* per annum. After 1843 the waste lands were disposed of by tender, and the revenue in the ensuing four years averaged rather more than 3,600*l.*

In 1847 they were offered for lease to the earliest applicant at 1*l.* for every 100 acres, and the revenue rose in 1851 to 21,400*l.* The settlement of the Colony, however, was not much accelerated: the waste lands remained mostly in the same hands, and were used as heretofore, almost exclusively for pasture of the natural herbage.

In 1851 leases were granted for ten years, with pre-emptive right to buy, on a credit of ten years, a block of 640 acres, at 1*l.* per acre. The purchase conferred also the "quiet enjoyment" for the said years of ten times the extent of leased land, supposing so much waste land to exist unoccupied and contiguous, and provided the usual rent of 1*l.* per 100 acres was paid. The period of "quiet enjoyment" was next extended from ten years to twenty years, provided actual residence on the land for five of the ten years could be established. This concession, therefore, has not yet commenced to be claimable. These regulations ended on 29th October 1854, but claims under them will not wholly expire until 1874. The "quiet enjoyment" concession was not, however, given as respects some of the lands in certain districts on the north and south coasts. The result of the regulations of 1851 is that 290,000 acres were purchased on ten years' credit, and the quiet enjoyment possession locks up 655,000 more acres.

Another very large exception to the operation of the Act 33 of 1858 is made by the Act 31 of 1858, styled the "Unsettled Lands Act," which grants in fee simple tracts not less than 50 acres, nor more than 640 acres, on certain conditions—viz., that the settler has capital equal to one pound per acre. A lease is also obtainable, on a peppercorn rent, for ten years, of 10,000 acres, on condition that within one year the land is stocked, and kept stocked in the ratio of 100 sheep, or 20 cattle, to every one thousand acres. This latter Act subtracts from the operation of the former Act nearly five millions of acres. The district in question has Ports Davey and Macquarie Harbour as outlets for shipment, and is watered by the rivers Arthur, Gordon, King, Huon, Florentine, and many minor streams, and comprises lakes Pedder and Richmond, and some extensive plains. In November and December, 1858, one million six hundred and fifty-six thousand acres were taken up on the terms above mentioned, in anticipation of the lands proving auriferous: an expectation that, for the present at least, is dispelled by the accompanying reports of two expeditions, costing respectively 700*l.* and 600*l.*, by private enterprise, to explore the country.

TASMANIA.

The first is by Mr. Tully, whose account is annexed,* together with comments thereon by the well-known geologist, the Rev. Mr. Clarke; the second report by Mr. Lewis.

The Tasmanian Government geologist, Mr. Charles Gould, recently appointed after selection by Sir Roderick Murchison, is now at Melbourne, for the purpose of inspecting the gold fields of Victoria, aided by Mr. Selwyn, the geologist of that Colony, preparatory to entering on his work in this island.

In the district of Fingal, where, in 1856, 2,000*l.* was appropriated by the Legislature to the trial of alluvial digging for gold without success, there is at this date a private quartz crushing company at work, with the result as yet of having obtained twenty ounces of gold as the maximum yield of fifty tons of quartz.

Finance.

The total general receipts, exclusive of land fund, during 1858, was 391,706*l.*, of which 134,608*l.* was derived from the Customs.

The expenditure on account of the public service of the Colony was 357,538*l.*

The Land Fund receipts were 207,818*l.*; the expenditure, 202,949*l.*

The returns furnished by the different banks and the Commissariat show the following result at the close of the year 1858:—

Coin and bullion -	-	-	£363,749
Notes in circulation	-	-	144,057
Deposits, &c. -	-	-	1,051,531
Bills of exchange	-	-	1,529,225

The declared value of imports and exports was—

Imports	-	-	£1,328,612
Exports	-	-	1,151,609

Of the exports for 1858, those produced in the island were valued at 861,884*l.*

Independently of the expenditure herein before mentioned there was disbursed by the Municipality of

Hobart Town	-	-	£24,013
Launceston	-	-	5,679

The public debt of the Colony at the end of 1858, consisting of outstanding debentures, was 274,260*l.*

The present local market price for the debentures is par.

Immigration.

The system of immigration known as the "Bounty" system still continues in operation. Some modification was made in the regulations affecting Government Immigrants, in December last; and I now annex a Copy of the Rules established by the Board.†

Legislation.

Forty Public and one Private Acts were passed in 1858, the titles of which are as follow:—

1. An Act to amend the Act of Council intituled "An Act for further improving the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Colony of Van Diemen's Land."
2. An Act to amend the Laws relating to Imprisonment for Debt.
3. An Act to amend the Laws affecting Trade and Commerce.
4. An Act for preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Bills of Sale of personal Chattels.
5. An Act to exempt Passengers, Animals, and Vehicles from Toll for repassing the Bridgewater Bridge once during the same Day.
6. An Act to alter the Tenure of the Office of the Colonial Auditor, and to provide for the more effectual Audit of the Public Accounts.
7. An Act to amend the Law relating to Offences against the Person.
8. An Act to render the Queen's Domain and the East Portion of the Launceston Swamp inalienable otherwise than by the special Authority of the Parliament of Tasmania.
9. An Act to extend the Provisions of the Trustee Act 1852.
10. An Act for transferring to the Supreme Court the Jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the Commissioners for examining into Claims for Grants of Land.

* These reports being voluminous are not printed.

† Not printed.

11. An Act to authorize the Formation of Volunteer Corps in Tasmania, and for the Regulation thereof. TASMANIA

12. An Act to incorporate the Burgesses of the Town of Launceston.

13. An Act to provide for Paving, Draining, Cleansing, Lighting, and Improving the Town of Launceston, and for promoting the Health, Safety, and Comfort of the Inhabitants thereof.

14. An Act to amend the Laws regulating the Supply of Water to the Town and Port of Launceston.

15. An Act for preventing Mischiefs by Fire in the City of Hobart Town.

16. An Act to empower Coroners to hold Inquests on Fires.

17. An Act to confer certain Powers and Privileges on the Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania.

18. An Act to repeal the Restdown Ferry Act.

19. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Estates of deceased Persons.

20. An Act to enable the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania to regulate the Affairs of the said Church.

21. An Act to establish a Council of Education with Power to grant a certain Degree, and to endow Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom by the Youth of Tasmania.

22. An Act to regulate the granting of Letters Patent for Inventions.

23. An Act for the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of the Insane, and for the Appointment, Maintenance, and Regulation of Hospitals for the Insane.

24. An Act to amend the Hobart Town Corporation Act.

25. An Act to make further Provision for the Improvement of the City of Hobart Town.

26. An Act to amend the Laws regulating the Supply of Water to the City and Port of Hobart Town.

27. An Act to facilitate the Collection and Recovery of Rates.

28. An Act to decrease the Postage on Inland Letters and Packets.

29. An Act Supplementary to the Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1857.

30. An Act Supplementary to the Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1858.

31. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further appropriating the said Revenue.

32. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further Appropriating the said Revenue.

33. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the General Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859.

34. An Act for applying certain Sums arising from the Land Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania to the Service thereof for the Year 1859, and for further appropriating the said Revenue.

35. An Act to authorize the raising of Loans for Public Works on the Security of the General Revenue of the Colony.

36. An Act to authorize the raising of Loans for Public Works on the Security of the Land Fund of the Colony.

37. An Act to authorize the raising of the Sum of 40,800*l.* by Debentures chargeable on the Land Fund of Tasmania, for making good the Supplies for the Public Service in the Year 1859.

38. An Act to authorize the raising of 6,000*l.* by Debentures for Public Works on the Security of the Land Fund of the Colony.

39. An Act to appropriate out of the Land Revenue of the Colony of Tasmania for the Year 1859, the Sum of 2,012*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in Compensation for Mr. Edward Abbott's Claim to 45 Acres of Land near Launceston.

40. An Act to amend the Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to Offences against the Person."

Private Act.

An Act to simplify Proceedings at Law or in Equity by or against the Launceston Gas Company, to restrict within Certain Limits the Responsibility of the Shareholders, and for other Purposes.

TASMANIA. I send, as an Enclosure to this Despatch, the Official Record of the Acts and Resolutions of the Synod of Tasmania in May 1859* :—

Military.

The effective force of Her Majesty's Troops in Tasmania at the present time consists of—

12 Officers,
15 Serjeants,
4 Drummers,
272 Rank and File.

No alterations have been made to the defensive works of the Colony since the last report.

Post Office.

The Revenue from the post office in 1858 was	-	-	-	-	£14,225
The Expenditure	-	-	-	-	17,370
The number of letters received at the post offices in Hobart Town and Launceston was	-	-	-	-	347,889
The number sent	-	-	-	-	314,812
The number of newspapers received	-	-	-	-	480,997
The number sent	-	-	-	-	874,998

besides 62,029 town letters.

By the Act of the Tasmanian Parliament, 22 Vict., No. 28, the rate of postage for inland letters, if sent beyond a radius of five miles from Hobart Town or Launceston, is reduced from 6*d.* to 4*d.* the half-ounce, the rate within that distance being 2*d.* the half-ounce. The rate of postage on inland and ship books and packets has also been reduced to 6*d.* the quarter-pound; ship-packets posted in the interior to be chargeable with both the inland and sea postage.

The ship letter rates remain at 6*d.* the half-ounce; 4*s.* for not exceeding four ounces, and an extra shilling for each ounce in excess of four ounces.

Whale Fishery.

The quantity of oil reported to have been landed during 1858 is :—

					Tons.	Gallons.
Black	-	-	-	-	612	138
Sperm	-	-	-	-	30	72
Black fish	-	-	-	-	7	53

and the value of that exported was declared at 48,208*l.*

During the year several vessels were added to those already engaged in the whale fishery, and three vessels were despatched to new ground in the southern latitudes, but no advantage appears to have arisen out of this expedition, the masters having preferred to return to their favourite haunts off the coast of New Zealand.

This service employed in 1858 a fleet of 23 vessels belonging to Colonial owners.

The Aborigines

Consist of 5 males and 9 females, whose subsistence and management cost 741*l.* in 1858. I append the most recent report of their superintendent.

Convicts.

At the end of 1858 there were 2,691 convicts in Tasmania, of whom 871 were maintained by the Government, and 1,748 not maintained by the Government, but earning their own livelihood. The expense of the convict establishments for the year 1858-59 was estimated at 62,793*l.*, of which about 23,000*l.* was expected from the Colony on account of the cost of Colonial prisoners maintained in the Imperial Convict Penal Station.

The estimated cost in 1855-56 was 132,551*l.*; in 1856-57, 96,164*l.*; in 1857-58, 60,328*l.*

The Retired Allowances List comprises at this date 56 names, of whom five are resident out of the Colony. The aggregate amount of salaries reduced may be inferred from the aggregate retired allowances, which is 3,576*l.*

* Not printed.

Introduction of Salmon.

TASMANIA.

An association of Australian proprietors in London have taken measures, at their own risk and expense, to introduce the ova of salmon into these colonies, and the experiment is to be first tried in the rivers of Tasmania, and the importation is expected daily.

This is likely to prove a boon which the resident colonists will highly appreciate from their absentee friends.

I subjoin an enumeration of the Returns which are contained in the volume of statistics accompanying this Despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.

REPORT upon OYSTER COVE STATION, from the 1st January 1858, to 28th May 1859.

Upon the 1st January 1858 the aborigines kept at the Oyster Cove Station, numbered "fifteen,"

10 women, - - - - - 5 men,

the surviving remnants of no less than 10 tribes; of these that of Saint Patrick's Head musters the larger number, 3 women and 1 man; those of the Coal River and Bruné Island, each 2; the remainder are single representatives of the "Ben Lomond," "New Norfolk," and other tribes.

The age of these people it is not very easy to ascertain correctly; the following is probably as near the truth as it is possible to get:

1 Man of	-	-	-	-	22 years.
2 Men and 2 Women between	-	-	-	-	35 and 40.
1 Man and 3 do. do.	-	-	-	-	40 and 45.
1 do. and 2 do. above	-	-	-	-	50.
And 3 Women about	-	-	-	-	60.

One of the latter died in October last.

There are four married couples who live happily and comfortably together; the men treat the women for the most part with kindness (excepting when their bad passions are excited by drink), and the wives appear to have a strong and real affection for their husbands.

There have been no children born upon the station for, I believe, years; I have frequently been asked by strangers to assign a reason for this, but can only do so by adopting an opinion of a scientific writer, who, in treating the subject of the rapid disappearance of aboriginal races after the approach of the whites, states that after intercourse with white men, the native women, as a general rule, are incapacitated from bearing children to members of their own tribes.

In addition to the natives residing at the station, there is another woman of about 28 years of age, married to a white man of the name of Smith; the Government allows her a pension, (in lieu of rations and clothing) of about 25*l.* a year. She lives with her husband upon a farm granted to them by the Government, near Port Cygnet, and about 7 miles from this; after having been married for several years, she, a few months ago, had the happiness to present to her husband a little boy; he is a fine healthy looking child, of whom they and all the blacks are very proud.

Simple as their original language must have been, it had so many different dialects that it was frequently a matter of difficulty for the members of one family to understand those of another; now, however, they all seem to have merged into one, and that is generally used by the natives when talking by themselves. The men more frequently speak English, and speak it better than the women; in quarrelling, however, both invariably use the latter language, as it furnishes, I suppose, worse and more approbrious epithets than they could find in their own.

The building in which they live forms one side of a square, and is divided into several single apartments, each having a separate entrance at the front, which can be secured at pleasure with lock and bolt, either from within or from without; one of these apartments, fitted up with bedstead, table, cupboard, boxes, and culinary utensils, is assigned to each married couple, and to each single woman; these rooms are very comfortable, and would be a great deal more so if their occupants could be induced to pay more attention to cleanliness, and had not such an apparent antipathy to soap and clean water.

One notable feature upon the station is the number of dogs, each native possessing 3 or 4, which eat, live, and sleep with their owners. These dogs are a great nuisance, and prevent the houses ever having a decent appearance; the natives, however, are so attached to them, that they will never consent to any diminution to their number.

The rations are allowed upon a liberal scale, and are generally very good. There were frequent complaints sometime ago about the meat, but that, I am glad to say, has much improved since a more liberal price has been paid to the contractor; when the market price was from 6*d.* to 8*d.* it was unwise to expect a man to supply a very good article at 2½*d.* The following is the scale allowed to each aborigine per diem:

Meat	-	-	2 lbs.	Tobacco	-	-	¾ oz.
Flour	-	-	1¼ do.	Salt	-	-	¼ "
Sugar	-	-	⅙ "	Soap	-	-	½ "
Tea	-	-	¾ oz.				

Oil ½ a gill to each of six huts, but candles are generally given instead.

Men and women are well and plentifully supplied with good and warm clothing. The women's principal dress is made of stout blue cloth, fitting close round the neck and reaching to the feet, and contains 3½ yards of cloth, 1½ yards wide. Of these they each have 3 and sometimes 4 in the course of the 12 months: blue serge, flannel, calico, red caps, and pocket handkerchiefs are issued frequently and without stinting. In warm weather they have paletots and cotton frocks.

TASMANIA.

The principal employment of these people is to cook their victuals, mend and make their clothes sweep out their huts, and to get their wood, for which they have now to go a considerable distance, and which consequently occupies them a good portion of each day; all work devolves upon the women, the men doing nothing.

Walter is allowed 1s. 4d. per diem to take care of the boat and to meet the steamer. This service gives him employment for the best part of 4 days in each week, and he is frequently accompanied by the other men.

Their chief amusements are fishing and hunting; in pursuit of the latter they generally absent themselves once or twice during the season for 2 or 3 weeks or even a month; during this time they live in the bush. They always ask leave to go upon these excursions, and take with them their bedding, pots and pans, &c., and as many rations as they can carry.

Their behaviour is in general very good; but with a people so much addicted to drinking as these natives are there must of course be times when they are very troublesome and when they behave very badly.

Their health is in general very good, but during last winter the whole of them suffered very much from a violent kind of influenza; four of them were at one time dangerously ill, and one I am sorry to say died. Dr. Smith, from Brown's river, paid every attention to the sick, and nothing was omitted that could in any way add to their comfort.

I have forgotten to mention that three of the men are in the habit of going out whaling, and were so employed during the greater part of last year.

There is only one paid officer at this station, the Superintendent and Storekeeper, and one unpaid officer, the Visiting Magistrate.

J. N. DANDRIDGE,

Superintendent Aborigines, Oyster Cove.

25th May 1859.

LIST OF RETURNS.

NUMBER OF RETURN.	SUBJECT.	NUMBER OF RETURN.	SUBJECT.
1	Population of the Colony on 31 March 1857.	29	Municipalities and Road Trusts.
2	Population, exclusive of Military Troops and their Families.	30	Rates of Wages.
3	Total Population.	31	Distribution of Live Stock.
4	Aboriginal Inhabitants.	32	Prices of Provisions.
5	Births registered.	33	Acres in Cultivation, and Nature of Crop.
6	Deaths registered.	34	Total Number of Acres in Cultivation.
7	Deaths registered, distinguishing sex and age	35	Manufactories and Trades.
8	Deaths registered, distributed according to age.	36	Crown Land Sales.
9	Deaths registered, distributed in quarters.	37	Town and Suburban Allotments sold.
10	Marriages registered.	38	Combining Returns 37 and 38.
11	Return of Distribution of Marriages.	39	Number of Acres in Colony, &c.
12	Religious Denominations.	40	Stage Coaches.
13	Number of Houses.	41	Return of Children at the Orphan Schools.
14	Immigration—Expense and Numbers.	42	Diseases.
15	Arrivals and Departures.	43	Insolencies.
16	Imports and Exports.	44	Convictions in the Supreme Court.
17	Vessels entered Inwards and Outwards.	45	Ditto Quarter Sessions.
18	Tariff, Pilot, and Wharfage Rates, &c.	46	Civil Cases tried in the Supreme Court.
19	Receipts and Disbursements, General Revenue.	47	Ditto Courts of Requests.
20	Receipts and Disbursements, Land Fund.	48	Criminals executed.
21	Bonded Goods.	49	Gaols.
22	Expenditure from Commissariat Chest.	50	Government Schools.
23	Light-houses.	51	Lunatic Asylum.
24	Steam Vessels.	52	Mortgages.
25	Coin in the Colony.	53	Members of Executive Council and Parliament.
26	Assets of the several Banks.	54	Acts passed.
27	Post Office.	55	Nominal List of Officers under Colonial Government.
28	Liabilities of the several Banks.	56	Ditto under the Convict Department.
		57	

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.
No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from Sir R. G. MACDONNELL, C.B., to his Grace the DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

(No. 358.)

Government House, Adelaide,
10th October 1859.

MY LORD DUKE,

1. I AM reminded since writing my Despatch of the 8th instant, that it is necessary to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1858. I regret that when I first received it my other avocations did not permit me to accompany it with a fuller and more satisfactory report than I can hope to compile now, when my journey northward does not admit of further postponement without an increase of risk and inconvenience, which, in my position, would seem unwarranted by the occasion.

2. I am nevertheless unwilling to forward the statistical returns of so important a year without calling your Grace's attention to the principal deductions which may thence be drawn as to the progress of the Colony in its most important social and material relations, although I think I can best use the short period at my disposal by mainly fixing attention on some three or four of the leading topics, to which I am anxious to give such prominence and publicity as I may secure for them by embodying them in this Despatch.

3. I am moreover the less inclined on this occasion to enter at any length into calculations founded on the published statistical reports of this Government, because I am aware that complete reliance cannot be placed on their accuracy where they affect former years. I notice with regret that in many of those returns the proved errors contained in returns of previous years are reproduced, *e.g.*, in the return of marriages; 99 is the number returned of marriages by the whole Church of England in the year 1855, although the marriages that were solemnized that year in one church alone in Adelaide (Trinity Church), amounted to 126. As this is only one out of a very considerable number of errors known to exist in these returns, I regret much that many of those inaccuracies, although noticed either by myself or the public press, have been again inadvertently issued with the usual voucher to their authenticity furnished by the Chief Secretary's foot note to each page, representing the returns to "have been compiled from authentic records." These inconsistencies will, I trust, hereafter be set right as far as possible, and the appearance of official sanction be in future withheld from ascertained inaccuracies.

Statistics of
South Aus-
tralia, 1858,
Appendix A.

Population.

4. In the following table the estimated population on the 31st December 1858 is contrasted with that on the 31st December 1857,—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
31st December 1857	-	-		55,735	54,182	109,917
"	1858	-	-	60,209	58,131	118,340

showing an increase during the year 1858 of 8,423 souls.

5. The last census was taken on the 31st March 1855; the next will probably be taken in 1861, when I have strong hopes of seeing all these Colonies agreeing each to have its census taken on the same day as that fixed for the next general census of Great Britain.

I have already suggested to your Grace the expediency of bringing the subject before the Registrar-General in England, with a view to that officer recommending the forms which he thinks might be most judiciously used for the purpose of giving unity of action, as well as procuring uniform information throughout these Colonies. Indeed, I see no reason why a general census of the British Empire on one day is impossible, and I have accordingly ventured to make the suggestion to your Grace.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.Encl. 2.
Encl. 3.

The births, marriages, and deaths officially registered during the years 1857 and 1858 were respectively.

	Birth.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1857	5,183	1,218	1,304
1858	5,672	1,173	1,859

For detailed statement of births, marriages, and deaths, see Appendix A.

6. The number of aborigines in the settled districts cannot be accurately ascertained. They were estimated in 1855 at 3,540; but they are rapidly decreasing, and I do not believe that one half that number exists in the settled districts now.

Pauperism.

7. Annexed is a comparative return of the number of persons relieved by the district board during the years 1857 and 1858.

	1857.	1858.
In door - - - - -	406	459
Out door - - - - -	321	306
Country Districts - - - - -	96	121
TOTALS - - - - -	823	886

Diseases and Climate.

8. *Hospitals.*—The number of patients admitted during 1858 were:—

	Males.	Females.
Without payment of Fees - - - - -	386	215
With ditto - - - - -	62	12
	448	227
	675	

The admissions during 1857 having been:—

	Males.	Females.
Without Fees - - - - -	314	267
With ditto - - - - -	73	9
	387	276
	663	

The average number of days during which the patients remained in the hospital was:—

	1857.		1858.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
In cases of Acute Disease - - - - -	22½	26	23	26
„ Chronic „ - - - - -	107	132	84	127
The average daily cost of each patient was -	s. d. 2 1½		s. d. 2 2½	

9. Lunatic Asylum.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.
Encl. 4.

	1857.		1858.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
The number of Patients under Medical Treatment on 1st January, was - - }	44	29	47	39
The number of Admissions during the Year was	49	35	46	29
The number of Patients who died was - -	8	5	11	—
Of those who were discharged - -	19	20	40	
The average daily cost of each Patient was -	s.	d.	s.	d.
	1	5½	1	1½

Meteorological.

Encl. 5.

10. The barometer ranged in Adelaide from 30·391 in July, to 29·282 in January ; the greatest range in any one month having been 0·886, and the least 0·363. The temperature varied from 116·3 in January, to 32·7 in September ; the greatest diurnal range having been 45·8. Rain fell in Adelaide on 97 days, the total fall having been 20·250 inches. The prevalent winds were N.N.E. in the morning, and S.S.W. in the evening.

14. Crimes, Misdemeanors, and Litigation.

Encl. 6.

	1857.	1858.
Number of Convictions in Supreme Court, viz. :—		
Felonies - - - - -	54	67
Misdemeanors - - - - -	19	8
Number of Civil Cases in Supreme Court - - - - -	139	122
„ Preliminary Investigations heard and determined in Magistrates' Courts - - - - -	345	393
Number of Cases of Summary Jurisdiction heard and determined in Magistrates' Courts, viz. :—		
Number of Informations under Acts of Council - - - - -	1,930	1,852
„ Criminal Trials, Assaults, and Misdemeanors - - - - -	767	834
„ Drunkenness in streets - - - - -	1,252	1,349
„ Civil Cases, being Claims for Money not exceeding 30l. -	4,424	7,378

Insolvency.

12. The following is a return of the number of Fiats issued in the Province during 1857 and 1858 :—

	1857.	1858.
Issued on Petition of Creditors - -	19	46
„ „ Imprisoned Debtors	13	33
„ „ Debtors at large -	12	26
TOTALS - -	44	105

Agriculture.

13. The extent of land brought under cultivation during 1858 was 264,462½ acres, showing, as compared with 1857, 236,965½ acres ; an increase of 27,496½ acres.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

The harvest was still more unfavourable than that of last year; the wheat crop of that year having been estimated as averaging 12 bushels per acre, while that of 1858 is taken to have been only $11\frac{1}{8}$ bushels per acre, though this is a point on which there has been much dispute. The yield of last harvest was probably not short of 45,000 tons of flour.

The total comparative declared values of grain, and of other principal farm, dairy, and garden produce exported in the years 1857 and 1858, were as under:—

	1857.		1858.
	£		£
930	Animals, Horses	- - - -	5,150
29	Bacon and Hams	- - - -	142
3,154	Butter	- - - -	3,928
911	Cheese	- - - -	740
756,051	Corn and Meal	- - - -	536,398
356	Fruit	- - - -	2,051
2,969	Hay	- - - -	4,350
938	Onions	- - - -	834
155	Potatoes	- - - -	276
531	Wine	- - - -	772
£766,024			£554,641

14. The following were the average Adelaide prices of:—

	Wheaten Flour.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	per Ton.	per Bushel.	per Bushel.	per Bushel.	per Ton.	per Ton.
1857	23 <i>l.</i> to 15 <i>l.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> to 5 <i>s.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>s.</i> to 4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	18 <i>l.</i> to 6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	7 <i>l.</i> to 3 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i>
1858	18 <i>l.</i> to 14 <i>l.</i>	8 <i>s.</i> to 4 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 4 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	9 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 4 <i>s.</i>	20 <i>l.</i> to 7 <i>l.</i>	4 <i>l.</i> to 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>

The average price of bread at Adelaide was the same in 1858 as in 1857, viz., $2\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per lb.

Crown Lands.

15. The area of lands alienated during the years 1857 } was { 177,718 acres.
and 1858 } { 158,015 "

The revenue actually received from the Crown Lands was as under:—

	1857.		1858.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
220,984 7 0	Land Sales	- - -	205,065 0 0
19,011 3 4	Leases	- - -	20,363 19 5
1,661 15 0	Licences	- - -	1,841 8 6
241,657 5 4			227,270 7 11

The total area of waste Lands of the Crown held under Leases granted prior to 31st December 1858, is,

	Square Miles.
Without the Hundreds	30,395
Within "	1,548
Total	31,943

The Rental paid during the year 1858, being - - £18,781 10*s.* 5*d.*

Stock.

16. The following statement, comprising Returns, not only of this Colony but of the neighbouring Colonies for such years as I can obtain them at once, will prove interesting:—

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

—	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and Lamb.	Pigs.	Year.
South Australia - - }	26,220	310,400	2,075,805	39,189	1857
	34,629	375,507	3,108,501	37,735	1858
New South Wales - - }	180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	1857
	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	1858
Victoria - - - }	55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	1857
	68,323	699,330	5,573,413	37,756	1858
New Zealand - - -	10,589	106,502	1,051,374	40,318	1857
	Statistics not received				

17. Immigration and Emigration.

—	1857.	1858.
The number of arrivals at Port Adelaide was - -	9,086	7,855
And that of departures - - - - -	3,440	2,934
Showing an increase to the Population from this source of -	5,646	4,921

The number of Immigrants arriving in the Colony at the Public expense, was as follows:—

—	No. of Ships.	English.		Irish.		Scotch.		Total.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	—
1857	13	1,471	1,055	860	415	91	73	2,422	1,543	3,965
1858	10	699	743	998	663	198	253	1,894	1,659	3,553

Revenue and Expenditure.

18. Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure of the Province, for 1857 and 1858.

1857.										
—						Revenue.		Expenditure.		
General Revenue - - - - -						£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Loans for Public Works - - - - -						451,525	19 2	480,234	14 0	
Total - - - - -						274,800	0 0	184,131	7 8	
						726,325	19 2	664,366	1 8	
1858.										
General Revenue - - - - -						£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Loans for Public Works - - - - -						451,830	16 10	472,618	6 7	
Total - - - - -						131,863	0 0	131,569	8 7	
						583,693	16 10	604,187	15 2	

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19. Imports and Exports.

	Imports.	Values.					
		1857.			1858.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	From Great Britain - - -	1,016,813	15	0	1,264,735	16	0
	„ British Colonies - - -	546,284	0	0	445,590	1	0
	„ Foreign States - - -	59,954	10	0	59,026	1	0
	Total - - -	1,623,052	5	0	1,769,351	18	0
	Imports re-exported - - -	214,388	0	0	157,144	0	0
	Imports consumed in Colony - -	1,408,664	5	0	1,612,207	15	0

	Exports.	Values.					
		1857.			1858.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	To Great Britain - - -	666,136	0	0	550,491	0	0
	„ British Colonies - - -	1,289,178	0	0	960,209	0	0
	„ Foreign States - - -	33,258	0	0	1,485	0	0
	Total - - -	1,958,572	0	0	1,512,185	0	0
	Imports re-exported - - -	214,388	0	0	157,144	0	0
	Total Exports, produce of Colony -	1,744,184	0	0	1,355,041	0	0

Of the above stated value of produce of the Colony, the principal items other than those ascribed to Farm Produce already given will be found in the following table:—

1857.			1858.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3,162	0	0	2,542	0	0
2,557	0	0	2,602	0	0
290,739	0	0	250,042	0	0
141,285	0	0	104,780	0	0
23,855	0	0	14,200	0	0
2,960	0	0	4,260	0	0
316	0	0	35	0	0
504,520	0	0	420,833	0	0

20. It may be useful here to compare the value of the exports of the three principal interests of the Colony for the years 1857 and 1858. I therefore give them here:—

		1857.	1858.	Decrease.
		£	£	£
Pastoral	- -	507,393	420,370	83,923
Mining	- -	458,839	373,282	85,557
Agricultural	- -	766,024	554,641	211,383
Total	- -	1,732,256	1,351,393	380,863

*Shipping.*SOUTH
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21. The number and tonnage of, inwards and outwards at Port Adelaide, was :—

	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		Foreign States.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1857 Inwards - -	71	39,411	327	59,958	16	6,941	414	106,310
„ Outwards - -	15	7,262	342	75,441	47	23,888	404	106,591
1858 Inwards - -	64	38,495	258	47,876	21	8,528	343	94,899
„ Outwards - -	9	4,465	275	60,410	46	23,295	330	88,176

The number and tonnage of vessels built and registered according to law was :—

		Vessels.		Vessels registered.		Registers cancelled.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1857 - -	—	—	—	10	2,271	12	2,341
1858 - -	9	515	20	1,860	19	2,647	

Education.

22. The number of schools to which Government aid has been extended has increased from 167, with 7,480 pupils, at close of 1857, to 182, with 8,237 pupils, at close of 1858. The amount of Government aid having been—10,538*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* in 1857, and 11,329*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* in 1858.

The education of the above children cost in 1858 (inclusive of official salaries), on an average, 2*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* per head, of which the Government contributed 1*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* per head, and the friends of the pupils 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per head.

23. The total number of district schools erected under Government aid is 33, of which 10 were built in 1858, at a cost of 1,922*l.* 10*s.*

The number of schools in the Colony, the teachers of which have not received aid from Government, has not been accurately ascertained; but it is supposed that the assisted schools did not comprise more than three-fifths of the children under instruction. It is estimated that about 17,750 children, or 11½ per cent. of the population, were receiving education during 1858, although too many facts have come to my knowledge which convince me that the education so received is often of the most imperfect character. This, however, is a subject of so much importance, that I intend to go fully into it at a subsequent period, when I shall have more time at my disposal.

Postal.

24. The following table exhibits the Post Office business during 1858:

	No. of Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Totals.	
		Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.
1857	110	299,618	634,932	307,975	541,971	934,550	849,946
1858	126	321,455	782,995	325,236	591,412	1,104,451	916,648

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The revenue of the Post Office and the expenditure was :—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
10,353	18	4	17,984	18	0
12,688	19	4	15,704	10	8

Public Works.

25. The sum expended in 1858 through the Department of the Colonial Architect, on public works, buildings, and improvements, was 52,622*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, but the total outlay of the Colony under that head was 168,110*l.* 5*s.*

For further details as to progress of the various public works and undertakings, *vide* annexed Report * of the Public Works Department for the six months ending 31st December 1858, which I send as printed.

Electric Telegraphs.

26. The rapid development of the telegraph system in Australia, while affording a gratifying index of colonial energy and enterprize, affords also most conclusive proof how naturally it is adapted to the circumstances and wants of a young community. Where the different centres of population are widely separated, with but imperfect and slow means of intercommunication, and a constantly fluctuating trade, the advantages of the telegraph are more readily appreciated than in a country like England, where railways and roads ramifying in every direction, as well as the best of postal regulations, render the people less dependent on this modern means of intercourse.

27. Introduced first into Victoria in 1854, into South Australia at the end of the year following, and into New South Wales not until the beginning of 1858, the close of the last-named year found the three principal colonies electrically united and within speaking distance, whilst by the recent successful submersion of the Bass's Straits cable, Tasmania is now included in the chain.

28. The length of cable recently laid across the Bass Straits was 230 miles, and considering that only eight years have elapsed since the first cable was laid across the Straits of Dover, these colonies have reason for congratulation on the success of that undertaking. I have not the figures by me just now, but the aggregate length of the Australian telegraphs now in active operation, cannot be less than 2,500 miles.

29. The lines now in operation in South Australia extend for 370 miles, and three other lines are in course of construction, which together are rather more than 180 miles long, *viz.*, an extension of the northern line to Clare and Koorunga, one from Adelaide to Mount Barker, with a branch to connect Nairne and Woodside; and a third branching from Mount Gambier to Penola. Provision has also been made for carrying a second wire *viâ* Mount Gambier to the south-eastern frontier, being continued from Strathalbyn across the Murray at Wellington, involving 70 miles of new line. Moreover, the South Australian portion of a direct line, *viâ* the Darling, between Adelaide and Sydney, has been sanctioned by the Legislature, and will be prosecuted whenever the New South Wales section shall be positively determined on. The total estimated cost of the new lines, either in course of construction or sanctioned, amounts to no less than 30,000*l.*

30. The cost of the Australian lines has varied considerably. I find that the first line in Victoria, between Melbourne and Williamstown, cost, with one wire, 193*l.* 15*s.* a mile, exclusive of instruments and stations. In South Australia the first line, of four wires, between Adelaide and the Port, cost, *with instruments and stations*, rather more than 200*l.* a mile. The first line in New South Wales was between Sydney and the South Heads, consisting of one wire, and cost 91*l.* a mile, with instruments, but exclusive of buildings. The lines now in course of erection here will probably not cost more than 40*l.* to 45*l.* a mile.

* This Report being voluminous is not printed.

31. The progressive utility of the telegraph will be estimated from the following tabular statement of the number of messages and receipts, with which Mr. Todd has furnished me :—

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Year.	Number of Messages.	Receipts.	Mileage of each Year.
1856 (10½ months) -	14,738	£ s. d. 366 6 7	9
1857 - - -	35,792	1,183 13 10	40
1858 - - -	46,716	2,844 5 6	93, to 345 in Dec.
1859 (first 6 months)	30,314	2,617 15 7	360
Total - -	127,560	7,012 1 6	

Telegraphic Communication with England via India.

32. Having thus briefly traced the advancement and present condition of the existing local system of telegraphs, I avail myself of this opportunity to offer a few remarks on the far more important question of the proposed extension of the Anglo-Indian lines to Australia. It is not yet too late to pause before the public or Her Majesty's Government become committed to any one scheme, without that previous extensive review of the general question which it deserves.

33. As the line, whatever direction it might take, would be of nearly equal benefit to Great Britain as to these Colonies, the Imperial Government, following the course hitherto pursued in these matters, would probably undertake to contribute one moiety of the subsidy; therefore the diminution of that subsidy, by decreasing the interest payable on the capital invested, is a matter of equal concern to the Colonies and the Mother Country.

34. The estimated amount of capital required, if Mr. Gisborne's route is adopted, viz., 842,000*l.*, may not be excessive; but I am informed by Mr. Todd that a much stronger cable than that which he proposes could be obtained without exceeding the cost estimated. The Atlantic cable cost, I believe (from the manufacturer), 100*l.* a mile; the Red Sea, 105*l.*, or, when laid, 198*l.* per mile. The cable recommended by Mr. Gisborne would be similar to the latter, but stronger and heavier, weighing 22 cwt. to the mile, and it is estimated will cost 110*l.* per mile in England. The Bass' Straits cable cost, in England, only 85*l.*; it weighs about two tons to the mile. The cost of laying would probably be much greater, but it would be more reliable.

35. I would, however, pass from these minor considerations to the far more important one of the route to be selected. Four different routes have been mentioned. Of these we may confine ourselves to the consideration of three, for that from Galle *via* the Cocos to Western Australia, appears no longer to have advocates. The respective merits of the Western and Eastern Coast lines are very nearly balanced. The Western line, however, possesses this advantage, that it would co-operate as it were with the mail service, and would also unite Western Australia, whilst the cost would be much the same. Moreton Bay, or Queensland, would in any case I apprehend be connected with Sydney, and thus the whole of the Colonies would reap the advantages of telegraphic intercourse; whereas, if the Eastern line be adopted, an independent line would still be required to bring in Western Australia.

36. Nevertheless, in the absence of any well-digested scheme for carrying a line in that direction, it would be natural to support Mr. Gisborne's proposal, which, however, I would now wish to contrast with one overland. Though I am not aware that any one previous to myself had called attention to the latter route, and though at first it had few advocates, yet every new exploration towards the interior naturally raises the reflection whether it be not premature to support a circular route along uninhabited shores, whether east or west, when it may perhaps be quite practicable to adopt a nearly direct and cheaper one across the Continent, and, at the same time, secure thereby many collateral advantages.

37. Whilst Mr. Gisborne's proposed line is intended to work in a circuit exceeding the direct line by 600 miles in length, and whilst its submarine portion exceeds the

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submarine portion of the more direct route by 2,084 miles, it must be remembered that extensive coral reefs, likely to injure the cable, are known to exist in the seas which he proposes the cable should traverse. It is true that Mr. Gisborne endeavours to meet that objection by stating, that according to charts the cable could with due caution be laid quite clear of the reefs, on a bottom composed of sand and mud, and that coral is not likely to grow on such a bottom.

38. Nevertheless, I think there is still reasonable ground for doubting whether these seas have been surveyed with the care which alone would warrant the positive tone Mr. Gisborne assumes; and certainly no surveys having reference to the submergence of a cable have as yet ever been made there.

39. The comparatively short lengths comprising the several sections into which Mr. Gisborne proposes to divide the cable is a favourable feature in his scheme, affording as it would facilities in working, and in case of injury, the cable being laid in shallow seas, could be easily underrun and repaired. Therefore I consider Mr. Gisborne's plan to be deserving of serious consideration in the absence of any better proposal, though I yet see many collateral advantages in a land line, if at all practicable, over the best submarine line.

40. Such a line would assist in the settlement and development of the country; and if a practicable route could be found would probably be less costly in its construction, and more easily repaired than a submarine cable.

41. In reference to its practicability, I cannot but feel that the reports of Major Warburton and Mr. Stuart are sufficiently encouraging to warrant the hope of its being not only possible, but even comparatively easy, to carry a line to the northern coast, near the embouchure of the river Victoria. Any route much more to the eastward would probably lead through some extension of Sturt's Desert. The obstacle most likely to arise would perhaps be a scarcity of suitable timber along some portion of the line, as on the distribution of timber suitable for poles would mainly depend the cost of the work.

42. I perceive that in Victoria an overland route is at last beginning to find favour; and Mr. McGowan, the Superintendent of the telegraph department in that Colony, observes, "If a favourable route overland be found, he would recommend its adoption in preference to the submarine." Practically, therefore, Mr. McGowan's opinion and advice concur with the views which I long ago submitted to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. In New South Wales a preference has been expressed by some parties for a land line by Mitchell's River, or to Port Essington; and Mr. Gisborne states that if a land line is determined on he is prepared to meet it at any point on the coast, but would require that definite steps towards its construction should be taken by the Colonial Governments before the manufacture of any portion of the cable.

43. For the purpose of making a pecuniary comparison between the two sections, Mr. Todd has favoured me with a rough preliminary estimate of the cost of a land line from Adelaide to the North coast, somewhere in the vicinity of the Victoria River, and thence per submarine cable to the east of Java. He proposes that the land section should be constructed in a most substantial manner, the posts being chemically prepared in such way as would best preserve them from rot, and the ravages of the white ant. He also suggests that the posts should be stouter and capable of carrying a thicker wire (No. 4) than is ordinarily used (No. 6 or 8). He considers that the insulation likewise should be of the very best kind, though one wire would probably be sufficient to meet the demands for many years.

44. His estimate is as follows:

1st. Land Scheme,—

Mount Remarkable, proposed station, 200 miles north of Adelaide,	
to northern coast, say, 1,480 miles, at an average of 120 <i>l.</i> per	
mile	£177,600

From north coast of Australia to Coepang, 350 miles; from Coe-	
pang to Boewangi, 590 miles:—or 940 miles, at the liberal rate	
of 240 <i>l.</i> per mile	225,600

Total estimated cost	£403,200
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2nd. Estimated cost of line of telegraph from east end of Java to Sydney, viâ Moreton Bay.

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Submarine section, according to estimate of Mr. Gisborne,—

	Miles.
Boewangi to Coepang - - - - -	590
Coepang to Port Essington - - - - -	525
Port Essington to Cape York - - - - -	635
Cape York to Cleveland Bay - - - - -	619
Cleveland Bay to Moreton Bay - - - - -	655
	<hr/>
	3,024=£800,000

Land section,—

Moreton Bay to Sydney, 600 miles, at 70 <i>l</i> .	- - -	42,000
		<hr/>
Total cost or capital required for Mr. Gisborne's route	• -	£842,000
Difference in favour of land line from Adelaide	- -	£438,800

45. If, however, we exclude from our calculation the line between Sydney and Moreton Bay as being likely to be constructed irrespective of a line to India, and if we deduct the estimated cost of that line, we shall still have the large difference of 398,800*l*. in favour of the overland line.

Mr. Gisborne estimates the annual cost of maintenance of his line at 20,000*l*., viz., 10,000*l*. for stations, and 10,000*l*. for steamer.

Mr. Todd proposes, if a land line is adopted, to have stations from 60 to 70 miles apart, say, 24 stations at an average cost of 500*l*. per annum each, or 12,000*l*.

46. But even if we suppose the whole average annual expenditure to be 20,000*l*. per annum, the collateral advantages of the proposed route are very great, including amongst others the probable establishment of a camel post across the interior, the foundation of a prosperous commercial community on the north coast in the vicinity of Cambridge Gulf, and the probable transit near the route so opened (if the country be at all practicable) of large numbers of horses to the north coast for shipment to the Indian market, at comparatively little expense, in greater security, and by a far shorter voyage than the route of Torres Straits.

47. On the whole, I cannot think it expedient for these Colonies to commit themselves to any scheme, costing apparently several hundred thousand pounds more than the direct overland route, till the absolute impracticability of the latter shall have been clearly demonstrated.

48. I would also observe, that when we reflect that the distance between Mr. Stuart's furthest point north, in latitude 26 south, and Mr. Gregory's furthest south latitude 19° 30' south, longitude 127° 30' east, is not 600 miles in a direct line, or, in other words, is not more than an Arab with a couple of fleet dromedaries would explore in a few days, I can only express my regret that there has not hitherto been either sufficient enterprise, or a sufficiently judicious application of it, to make us acquainted with the geographical and general character of the intervening district.

49. I trust, however, there is now at last a fair prospect of clearing up whatever the mystery which still impends over that portion of the Continent, as one expedition has recently started for the purpose of exploring a shorter route to the northern coast, and that expedition will probably be followed up by another from Victoria, whilst the example of this Colony in offering a liberal reward of 2,000*l*. to the first party which may succeed in opening a route between the southern and northern coasts will, as I have reason to hope, be followed in an equally liberal spirit by the neighbouring Colonies.

50. I would conclude this subject by observing that, although the immediate advantage to the public of telegraphic communication with Europe, and the number of messages likely to be transmitted, may be somewhat over estimated, it is scarcely possible that there can be a question as to the wisdom of obtaining positive testimony as to the impracticability or otherwise of the direct route, possessing as it does so many advantages, before the idea be abandoned. Though I would be sorry to aver that it is the only line which should be adopted, yet I feel justified in asking that it be not rejected without inquiry.

51. I cannot conclude this part of my subject without expressing the obligations of this Government to the energetic and highly competent superintendence of Mr. Charles Todd over the Telegraphic Department, which is mainly indebted to him for its present extremely efficient state.

Legislation.

52. I shall not attempt here to sketch the various important Acts which were passed during the year 1858. I have already made those Acts the subject of various special reports to Her Majesty's Government, but I avail myself of this opportunity to give a general outline of the objects and practical working of one measure which, from the extensive reform it has originated, and the marked attention and support it has received from the general public, requires that I should offer some observations on the defects and advantages which time has developed in it.

53. I allude to the Act passed in January 1858, and subsequently amended in December of the same year, intituled "An Act to simplify the laws relating to the transfer and "encumbrance of freehold and other interests in land."

54. The importance of the interests involved, and the degree of attention at present bestowed on this subject, both in the Mother Country and in the Colonies where English laws prevail, appear to call for a full exposition of the experiment which has been received with such remarkable favour by the general public, and which, on the whole, must be admitted to have already attained a large amount of success here.

55. The measure in question originated with Mr. Robert R. Torrens, who for a long period filled high offices in this Government under the former constitution, and was a Member of the Legislature previous to and since the establishment of responsible Government. He has, however, for some time retired from a political career, in order to devote undivided attention to the practical development of his system.

56. In so far as regards the transfer, leasing, mortgage, incumbrance, and settlement of real estate, Mr. Torrens's method accords with the recommendations of the Commissioners on Registrations of Title contained in the Report laid before the Imperial Parliament in May 1857, and is nearly identical with that embodied in the Bill introduced into the House of Commons during last session by Sir Hugh Cairns.

57. These systems agree in leaving it to the discretion of each proprietor to settle for himself the question of exchanging his tenure under the old law for a certificate of title under the new. Nevertheless, as regards the procedure to be followed in effecting the change of tenure, and also as regards the position in which it places the proprietor after surrender of his deeds in exchange for certificate of title, Mr. Torrens's method differs from that suggested by the Parliamentary Commissioners, as well as from that of Sir Hugh Cairns.

58. Under Mr. Torrens's system, the claims of persons to be recognised as owners of the fee are examined by solicitors, specially retained for that purpose, and if the evidence submitted be sufficient "prima facie" to show at least a good holding title in the claimant, his application is advertised in the public papers, and by other means extensively notified.

59. If any adverse claim be lodged within a period fixed for each case upon its apparent merits, the question raised is referred for adjudication to the ordinary tribunals of the country. If, however, no such claim be lodged, the Registrar-General issues to the applicant proprietor, in exchange for his deeds of title, surrendered to the Crown, a certificate which secures him immunity from ejectment, but leaves him liable for compensation by cash payment to rightful heirs, or other claimants, whether of the fee or of a lesser estate, who may be debarred by the operation of the new law from pursuing the remedy by action of ejectment.

60. Compensation must in such cases be claimed within six years from the date of the advertisement, and is limited in amount to the value of the land at the date of issuing certificate of title.

61. As this liability attaches only to the person of the applicant proprietor to whom the first certificate in respect to each parcel of land is issued, and does not follow the land into the possession of a purchaser or mortgagee, provision is made for satisfying such claims, failing recovery of the full amount and costs from the applicant proprietor, for which purpose an assurance fund is created by a small per-centage upon the value of lands brought under the new law. The sufficiency of the fund so created is a point which can only be decided by the lapse of time, and the experience thence derived.

62. The measure proposed by Sir Hugh Cairns, would subject every title, however clear, and whether adverse claims be raised or not, to judicial inquiry by a Court specially constituted for that object, and after favourable decision, would still leave the applicant proprietor liable to be ejected from the land, immunity in this respect being withheld until the estate has passed from the first certified proprietor to purchasers or mortgagees.

63. This Bill does not appear to provide any remedy for the rightful owner, in case the person to whom certificate of title may have been issued in error shall have parted with the estate for valuable consideration. SOUTH
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64. The diversity of the two systems in these respects involves considerations of especial importance. In Colonies, especially when settled within a comparatively short period, and where consequently a large proportion of titles consist of Crown Grants, or of such Grants with a few simple and clearly evidenced transactions superadded, the introvention in all cases of a judicial decision would seem to be an unnecessarily stringent impediment to placing such titles under the new system.

65. Again, in new Colonies estates in land are comparatively of small value, and the expense, coupled with the delay attendant on obtaining a judicial decision, would operate in the majority of cases as a positive prohibition.

66. Thirdly, in countries so placed the capital expended by the occupier in buildings and other fixed improvements, very generally exceeds the value of the land itself. Hence the remedy by ejectment inflicts great hardship, when in restoring to the rightful owner his inheritance, it also bestows upon him therewith the capital of others, who, though tortuous holders, may have occupied "bonâ fide," and such cases are of frequent occurrence in the Australian Colonies.

67. The plea that feelings of attachment to hereditary acres may be outraged, has of course less force, and is of rarer practical application in new than in old countries, and on the whole, the requirements of natural justice will probably be sufficiently met when the money value of his inheritance, with costs of suit, are insured to the rightful heir, especially as the occurrence of such cases must be the exception.

68. If moreover we regard the question in its economic aspect, the wealth of the community would seem to be increased by a measure which, curing all defects of a merely technical character, and transferring the liability from the land to the person of the holder, renders available for the secure investment of capital in reproductive improvements the land which otherwise would have remained comparatively waste in other hands.

69. Upon these grounds, and without entering on the comparative eligibility of the two systems as applied to the case of an old established country, the measure now in operation in South Australia appears better adapted to the circumstances of a recent Colony.

70. Under that system, if the title be once purged of flaw by issue of the certificate, the principle that upon each change of ownership of the fee the certificate shall be surrendered to the Crown and a fresh certificate issued to the incoming proprietor, effectually cuts off for the future the derivative or dependent character of title to real estate—the fruitful source of costs, insecurity, intricacy, and delay.

71. Another principle, having like tendency is, that the estate passes upon entry of a transfer in the register book; the instrument signed between the parties, being nothing more than an authority for the Registrar making each entry.

72. These instruments when stamped and endorsed by the Registrar, with a certificate that the particulars have been entered in the register book, become evidence in all Courts of law and equity that such entry has been made, unless the contrary be shown.

73. Memorials of all leases, mortgages, and encumbrances, noted in the register book, are also entered upon the certificate of title in the hands of the owner of the fee, by which means disclosure of all that it concerns a purchaser or mortgagee to learn is ensured upon the mere production of that instrument without the necessity of searching the register.

74. All instruments under this system are required to be executed in original and counterpart. The original is deposited in the registry, the counterpart is held by the party entitled, and, in the event of this being lost or destroyed, a copy of the deposited original certificate, under hand and seal of the Registrar, becomes of the same value in evidence, and for all other purposes, as the original.

75. The originals of certificates of title as representing the fee are bound in volumes, and constitute the register book, each certificate forming a separate folium distinguished by its appropriate number.

76. Memorials of leases, mortgages, and encumbrances, as also memorials of the transfer, surrender, or discharge of these estates, are entered each upon the folium constituted by the certificate of title of the land which it affects, by which means all limitations and conditions to which the fee of each parcel of land is subject, are exhibited together in one place.

77. Leases, mortgages, and instruments other than certificates of title, are numbered in one series as presented for registration, and stamped each with the volume and leaf of

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the register book where the memorial of its contents is recorded. The originals are then deposited in compartments in the registry, and the counterpart delivered to the person entitled. Each memorial entered in the register book, and on the counterpart certificate of title held by the proprietor of the fee, bears the number of the instrument of which it is an abstract.

78. By these means the utmost facility in reference has been attained, and an index for that purpose is unnecessary.

79. Transfer or surrender of lease, as also transfer or discharge of mortgage or encumbrance, when evidenced by acknowledgment of the parties, endorsed on the instrument itself, becomes effectual when recorded on the appropriate folium of the register book, under the hand of the Registrar.

80. The circuitous and involved method of mortgaging by transfer of the legal estate with equity of redemption is abolished, and direct hypothecation substituted. One of the main sources of expense, litigation, and delay is thus removed, yet in case of default all remedies available under the previous law are secured to the mortgagee.

81. Settlements and entails can only be effected through the instrumentality of trustees registered as absolute owners.

82. All trusts are not recorded in the register, but may at the option of the proprietor be either disclosed on a schedule attached to the instrument nominating the trust, or declared in a deed enclosed in a sealed envelope and deposited in the registry for safe custody and reference.

83. The interest of beneficiaries under the trusts may be protected in a manner identical with that by which interests of the like nature in the English funds are protected, by caveat, distringas, and limitation against survivorship of trustees.

84. The laws relating to devolution of real estate by inheritance, descent, bankruptcy, or insolvency, are in no way interfered with, it being merely directed that such event shall be properly authenticated to the Registrar, in order to warrant entry of the name of the new proprietor in the register.

85. Registration is conducted on the central system in the capital, whence printed forms of instruments adapted to each class of dealings are issued. The instruments executed out of the capital may be acknowledged or proved before a justice of the peace by the parties or attesting witnesses, and forwarded through the post office for registration, search when required being made by query addressed to the Registrar, per post or telegram. These arrangements have proved so satisfactory as to set at rest the question as between "central" and "district" registration.

86. No less an authority than Lord St. Leonards has urged against registration generally the following objections. 1st, that it exposes private affairs, such as family settlements, to prying curiosity; 2nd, that through the accumulation of documents, it must eventually break down of its own weight; 3rd, that the difficulties attendant on keeping an index posted up, so as to be constantly available for search, carefully checked so as to warrant implicit confidence in its accuracy, and in so many counterparts as to admit of several searches being conducted at one time in the same letter have hitherto proved insurmountable. It may, therefore, be useful to consider whether these objections apply to the system of registration of title above described, and being gradually adopted here.

87. Its provisions do not, as above explained, involve necessarily disclosure of the trusts of a settlement. The cancellation and withdrawal of the certificate, mortgage, lease, or other instrument evidencing title, upon the transfer, expiration, or extinction of the estate or interest represented thereby, effectually prevents inconvenient accumulation, and ensures that each estate extant shall be evidenced by one instrument only. Moreover, so long as all encumbrances and limitations of the proprietor's interest are notified by memorial on his certificate of title, and whilst the retrospective history of the title is cut off, search can only be required against caveats and distringas, and is the affair of a few minutes. Again, as each instrument is marked with the volume and folium of the register book, where the memorials of all transactions affecting the land are exhibited together, it is in itself an index for the purpose of searching the proprietor's title.

88. As a matter of experience, it may be stated that the general index is resorted to only upon rare occasions, as loss of the instrument of title, or when it is desired to ascertain what dealings a deceased intestate, or an insolvent seeking to conceal his assets, may have had in real estate.

89. In conclusion, I am inclined to think that more has been done in South Australia than in any other portion of the British Empire hitherto to solve the problem of rendering dealings in real estate as secure, economical, and expeditious as dealings in the funds.

90. The results realized are such simplification that persons of ordinary intelligence conduct their own business, and in expenses attending conveyancing, and are thus enabled on the average to save in money nearly eighteen shillings in the pound, and so much time that a transaction rarely occupies more than an hour.

91. The removal of those contingencies on dealings in real estate, which have heretofore afforded a pretext for the greater portion of suits in Equity, necessarily diminishes litigation. The removal of impediments in the shape of expense, insecurity, and delay, which have hitherto excluded landed securities from ordinary bank transactions, renders the use of capital more easily attainable by the producing classes, and I certainly think that in developing and bringing into operation the whole scheme whereby all this is accomplished, Mr. Torrens has exhibited an amount of energy and perseverance such as justly entitles him to the gratitude of this community.

Murray River Trade.

92. The trade on the main River during the season 1858-9 was not, in some respects, equal to that of several previous years. Generally the river has been open for navigation in the month of June; but in 1858 it was not till an advanced period in the month of September that the floods came down in sufficient volume to admit of the steamers proceeding to their customary destinations; and although thus so much later in opening, the navigation of the river closed at the usual time, so that few of the boats could effect more than three voyages each to the Upper Murray, instead of five or six, as in former years.

93. But while the main River thus offered unusual impediments to navigation, ample employment was found for some of the steamers on its important affluents, the Murrumbidgee and Darling, which were both successfully navigated—the former to the township of Gundagai, a distance of 800 miles; and the latter, by Mr. William Randall, to a point nearly 1,800 miles above its junction with the Murray, being the greatest feat in steam navigation ever performed on the rivers of Australia. I had myself previously, as reported to Her Majesty's Government, accompanied Captain Cadell, in the steamer "Albury," to a distance of 600 miles above the junction of the Darling and Murray; and as I then had the pleasure of reporting that I considered the river equally navigable when we turned as it had been lower down, and as I regretted that Captain Cadell had not continued his voyage higher, it was with great pleasure I heard of Mr. Randall's successful verification of my anticipations as to the capabilities of the river.

94. It is possible that the Darling may not be found as navigable every year; yet that which has been effected has already given an immense increase to the value of existing pastoral stations, and has facilitated the occupation of an immense extent of new country in the territory of New South Wales.

95. The clearing operations on the Murray are still continued by the Snag boat; and although much remains to be done in this respect, the accidents from snagging during the season were of the most trifling character.

96. One of the steamers formerly employed on the river, viz., the "Melbourne," was, under the able and judicious command of Mr. James King, during the past season, engaged in trading between Goolwa and Port Adelaide through the sea mouth of the Murray. Her voyages averaged more than five each way every month, and were performed with great regularity. I believe that, altogether, Captain King has made about 180 voyages through the sea mouth of the Murray without having encountered any serious accident. Nevertheless, it is very desirable that the channel should be improved, for it certainly does not present the appearance of a safe passage for commercial traffic. That impression was not removed by my own experience when I went through the breakers at the beginning of this year; and yet experience shows that, practically, it is available for many purposes of commerce.

97. During the season 1859-60, now entered upon, the trade will probably be nearly equal in amount to that of the past season. The navigation opened about six weeks earlier, but there has been no heavy flood in any of the rivers up to this date, and the boats are not therefore expected to be able to make an average number of voyages. One steamer, the "Leichart," has been removed altogether from the river, but Captain Cadell has increased the number of his fleet by the addition of the screw steamer "Ruby," which vessel has just successfully completed a voyage to Melbourne through the sea mouth, with a cargo of silver lead ore, laden at Milang, on Lake Alexandrina, and is intended, when the proper season arrives, to convey wool by the same channel, without trans-shipment, from the shipping stations on the Murray to the ports of Melbourne or Adelaide, as the settlers may prefer.

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98. The first voyage of the “Ruby” direct to Melbourne, through the Murray Mouth, took place but a few days ago, and I regard that event as possessing historical importance in its effect on the great interests of that vast interior watered by the Murray and its tributaries, whilst I consider it pregnant with scarcely less important results to the prosperity and trade of South Australia, which it is at present difficult to foresee. Nevertheless, so far as such a direct trade to Melbourne can influence the prosperity of the interior, the effect must be of the most auspicious kind.

99. My intended departure to the North prevents my entering as fully into detail as I would wish, and necessitates this rather abrupt termination of my Despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

Appendix.

APPENDIX.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in the PROVINCE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA during the Years 1852 to 1858, inclusive.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1852	1,431	1,296	2,727
1853	1,401	1,373	2,774
1854	1,728	1,723	3,451
1855	2,054	1,890	3,944
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488
1857	2,640	2,543	5,183
1858	2,935	2,737	5,672

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
By the Church of England - -	517	591	463	99	488	493	407
” ” Scotland - -	9	53	30	28	35	23	24
” Roman Catholics - -	61	113	137	145	201	260	304
” German Lutherans - -	49	90	75	68	85	90	85
” German Prot. Congregation- alists.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
” Congregational Independents -	47	56	90	86	66	58	65
” Wesleyans - -	24	46	44	79	118	114	103
” Free Church - -	13	36	49	50	70	48	52
” Christians - -	—	4	3	1	5	5	4
” Deputy-Registrar, Adelaide -	2	2	10	—	—	—	—
” Baptists - -	—	9	9	31	46	28	26
” Bible Christians - -	4	10	16	27	36	44	36
” Primitive Methodists - -	—	—	—	—	—	28	32
” Friends - -	—	2	—	1	2	—	1
” Moravians - -	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
” United Presbyterians - -	—	—	—	3	—	1	4
” Unitarians - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
” Jews - -	—	7	—	2	1	1	1
” District Registrars - -	—	1	2	13	17	22	15
	726	1,020	928	634	1,172	1,218	1,173

DEATHS.

Year.	Age.														Males.	Females.	Totals.
	Under 2 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 30 Years.		Under 50 Years.		50 Years and above.		Age Unknown.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1852 - -	301	256	31	37	19	17	68	54	86	70	34	34	17	4	595	503	1,098
1853 - -	333	305	93	77	32	29	72	71	106	70	40	31	15	1	691	584	1,275
1854 - -	411	357	51	61	20	22	65	74	86	74	64	33	18	4	715	631	1,346
1855 - -	472	413	79	61	28	18	88	108	112	107	61	51	48	17	888	775	1,663
1856 - -	332	278	29	30	19	9	69	71	82	56	73	33	54	12	658	489	1,147
1857 - -	394	338	35	40	20	8	94	83	111	69	71	37	3	1	728	576	1,304
1858 - -	609	503	73	58	25	20	112	85	157	91	72	46	6	2	1,054	805	1,859

NOTE.—This Return merely shows the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic Official Records.
WM. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Chief Secretary.

April, 1859.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR KENNEDY to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 38.)

Government House, Perth,
March 15, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the "Blue Book" for the year 1858.

2. The various returns comprised in this Book are so explanatory and satisfactory that I need not occupy your time by any lengthened comments.

3. The concluding remarks in my Report on the Blue Book for 1857, "that the Colony had never before been in so sound and progressive a condition," are fully borne out by the returns now submitted to you.

4. The revenue of the Colony during the year 1858 has exceeded that of 1857 by a sum of 12,000*l.*, and exceeded even the estimated revenue for 1858 by a sum of 1,700*l.*

5. The expenditure of 1858 has exceeded that of 1857 by a sum of 2,000*l.*, though it is less than the estimated expenditure for 1858 by a sum of 4,000*l.*

6. The general progress of the Colony may be estimated from the imports and exports, which are as follow :

		1856.	1857.	1858.
Imports	-	£ 122,938	£ 94,531	£ 144,931
Exports	-	£ 43,907	£ 59,946	£ 78,648

7. It is unreasonable to expect any very considerable increase in the imports and exports of this Colony, when it is remembered how little foreign capital has been introduced, and that the population is comparatively stationary.

8. These considerations go to prove the sound and steady prosperity of all classes, and I look for a further increase in the export of wool, timber, copper, lead, and horses during the current year.

9. The Colony is now in a position to undertake various remunerative public works, and much has been done during the past year in improving the city of Perth and town of Fremantle, as well as the public thoroughfares throughout the Colony.

10. The agricultural interest is in a sound and progressive state, labour fairly remunerated, and produce plentiful and reasonable in price.

11. Land sales and land revenue are steadily on the increase.

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AUSTRALIA.

12. The native penal establishment at Rottnest (formerly a heavy charge) is now self supporting.

13. The criminal statistics of this peculiarly circumstanced community must ever be a matter of deep interest to Her Majesty's Government as well as to the public of this Colony.

14. The total convictions before the General Quarter Sessions stand as follow :

	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
Convictions	- 56	29	15	11

15. There were in the latter year 28 actual trials and 5 prosecutions withdrawn. The classes were as follow :

Free white men, tried	-	-	-	-	9
Do. convicted	-	-	-	-	4
Conditionally-pardoned men, tried	-	-	-	-	4
Do. do. convicted	-	-	-	-	2
Ticket-of-leave holder, tried	-	-	-	-	1
Do. do. convicted	-	-	-	-	0
Aboriginal natives, tried	-	-	-	-	14
Do. do. convicted	-	-	-	-	5

16. Two aboriginal natives included in this return had sentence of death recorded against them for murder inter se, but I am happy to state that there was no other sentence of death recorded during the year, and no criminal executed.

17. These returns do not of course include magisterial convictions for minor and disciplinary offences.

18. With these facts before me, I may be justified in expressing my belief that life and property are as secure in this Colony, and the people as observant of law and order, as in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.

19. These results are not obtained without forethought and labour; and while I cheerfully acknowledge the loyalty and obedience to the law which characterizes the whole population, I feel equal pleasure in recognising the services of the police and magistracy, and the good example afforded by resident employers.

20. On a general review of the Blue Book now transmitted I trust that you will consider there is ample reason for congratulation.

21. The Colony is now (and I hope permanently) free from the financial embarrassment which for so long a period retarded its progress.

22. There is a most satisfactory absence of pauperism and crime.

23. The demand for labour exceeds the supply by a wholesome proportion, the labourer is contented and comfortable, and the employers daily raising themselves in the social scale.

24. Differences between the Colonists and the Mother Country have been satisfactorily and liberally adjusted by Her Majesty's Government, and a spirit of contentment and good feeling prevails which must materially affect the general prosperity of all classes.

25. I purposely abstain from noticing subjects which might properly claim a place in this report, but which have been treated of and decided during the current correspondence of the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW
ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

[The Annual Reports from New Zealand for the Years 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858 have not been received.]

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. WARD, G.C.M.G., to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart.

(No. 135.)

SIR,

Pavilion, Kandy, July 4, 1859.

HAVING had ample opportunities in the Blue Book Despatches of 1856, 1857, and 1858, of explaining my views as to the system which appeared to me best calculated to develop the resources of this colony, and my reasons for supposing that a liberal outlay upon roads, bridges, surveys, and irrigation works would be followed by a corresponding increase in the revenue, I may confine myself upon the present occasion to the task of adducing proofs that these expectations have been realized, and that, with the largest expenditure ever known upon well-considered improvements, the revenue has shown itself fully equal to the demands made upon it, and still exhibits a tendency to increase.

Revenue.

2. For the revenue of 1858 exceeded that of 1857 by 76,932*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, the one being 578,028*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*, the other 654,961*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* The principal items of this increase are to be found, in the customs 27,000*l.*, land revenue 20,916*l.*, building materials 13,353*l.*, salt revenue 7,231*l.* On the other hand, it must be recollected that the export duty of 2½ per cent., intended to cover the guaranteed railway interest, came into operation on the 1st January 1858, so that the increase in the customs is rather apparent than real. Indeed, there was a falling off of 7,924*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* in the ordinary customs receipts as compared with 1857, which is ascribed by the collector to the great rise in the price of paddy and other grains, in consequence of short crops and diminished cultivation upon the continent of India, with a corresponding decrease in the imports here. The land sales too, in the central province, show a small decrease, attributable partly to the money crisis in Europe at the beginning of the year, and partly to the fact that some of the land surveyed could not be brought into the market before its close. But the increase in the land revenue, the sale of salt, and the rents derived from tolls on roads, bridges, and canals, are all signs of healthy progress, and indicate an extension of cultivation, of commercial movement, and of domestic comfort amongst the bulk of the population.

Expenditure.

3. The details of the expenditure of the year are given in the very elaborate statement of the acting Auditor General. They show a large increase in establishments, 18,447*l.*, the new scale of fixed establishments having received Her Majesty's assent, and having come into operation on the 1st July. There is also an increase of 20,000*l.* for public works, of 2,750*l.* for transport (the results of the new scale of travelling allowances introduced by the Minute of 21st June 1858); of 7,900*l.* for government vessels; of 2,000*l.* for lands taken for government purposes; and various other items, amounting in all to a net increase of 58,528*l.* over the expenditure of 1857, without including a further sum of 40,255*l.* 12*s.* 4¼*d.*, which was provided for out of the Surplus Fund Ordinances of 1856-57, and is consequently not comprehended in the ordinary or supplementary votes.

Assets and Liabilities.

4. It is very gratifying to me, under these circumstances, to be able to point to the fact, that the excess of revenue over expenditure in 1858 amounted to no less a sum

than 60,628*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.*, the revenue being 654,961*l.*, the expenditure 594,332*l.*, and the excess, as stated above, 60,628*l.* Including this surplus, the table of assets and liabilities shows that on the 1st January 1859 there was a balance in favour of the Ceylon Government, after debiting it with the unexpended as well as the expended amounts of the surplus fund ordinances of the last three years, of 217,572*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* From this, however, must be deducted a sum of 127,588*l.*, being the amount not considered "recoverable" in the sum of 99,556*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, which according to custom appears amongst the assets, viz.—

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	£	s.	d.
Irrecoverable	78,494	10	0
Amounts recoverable, but included as such in estimate of revenue for current year	21,061	18	7½
Surcharges	2,319	10	3½
Widows' pension fund	25,712	0	0
	127,588	0	0

and a further sum of 20,000*l.* voted under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 12 of 1858, which has not yet received Her Majesty's assent. This reduces the net available surplus over and above the revenue of the year on the 1st of January 1859 to 69,984*l.*

Surplus Fund Ordinances.

5. But if the balance be less, the colony may turn with pride to the useful works executed under the five Surplus Fund Ordinances that have passed since 1856, amounting in all to 191,000*l.*; the purchase of a colonial steamer, 10,000*l.*; of a second steamer for immigration purposes, 5,500*l.*; the construction of an electric telegraph from Galle to Manaar, 17,000*l.*; the outlay of 41,500*l.* in roads and bridges, in aid of the general revenue; of 15,000*l.* in civil and 22,000*l.* in military buildings, and of 39,000*l.* in irrigation works, the fruits of which will, I trust, be apparent in the increasing revenue of subsequent years. It will be advisable to husband carefully the balance now in hand as a resource against unforeseen contingencies, and this may be done without detriment to the colony, because of the great changes effected by the outlay already incurred. The largest improvements have been already carried out, or are in course of completion. The bridges thrown over the Mahawilla Ganga at Gampolle and Kattoogastotte, with the connecting roads, leave little to be desired in that respect in the central province; and the provision made for military quarters, government offices and courts, will, I think, meet the public requirements for many years. With the exception, therefore, of the building intended for the Supreme Court at Hulsfordorp, and some small additional charges for electric telegraph and irrigation works, I hope not to be under the necessity of making any heavy demand upon the surplus fund during the ensuing session, and this would be the more desirable as from the large increase in military allowances, and the general demand for enlarged custom-house accommodation at Colombo, it seems improbable that there will be any surplus at the close of the present year, after providing for the ordinary and supplementary expenditure; so that 70,000*l.* in round numbers is all that now remains to the credit of the colony, after providing for the unexpended balances of the Surplus Fund Ordinances in the Treasury or the Oriental Bank.

Revenue and Expenditure since 1854.

6. I cannot better illustrate the working of the system, which, under the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and with the support of the colonial legislature, I have pursued since my arrival in Ceylon in May 1855, than by submitting to you the accompanying returns which have been prepared for me by the Auditor General, though not usually included in the Blue Book. The first shows the available cash balances of the colony from the 1st of January 1855 to the 1st of January 1859, by which you will perceive that I began with a balance of 40,781*l.* bequeathed to me by my predecessor, and that I have now a balance of 69,984*l.*, after an extraordinary expenditure of 191,000*l.* in the last three years. The second shows the estimated and actual revenue of each of the five years, the actual expenditure (under ordinary and supplementary votes), and the actual surplus; the expenditure having increased from 393,268*l.* in

CEYLON.

1854 to 594,333*l.* in 1858, while the surplus has risen almost in a similar degree, having been 14,773*l.* when the expenditure was least, and 60,628*l.* when it was greatest in 1858. The third gives the surplus fund votes for the same period, and the balances remaining unexpended up to 31st March 1859. I may add that the revenue of the current year continues to exhibit the same buoyancy, the receipts from the 1st of January to 30th April being 290,758*l.*, the expenditure 197,225*l.*, which, after adding 25,000*l.* for the Colonial Agent in London, leaves a surplus of 68,533*l.* on the first four months, and indicates a great probability that the revenue of the year will not fall short of 720,000*l.*

7. I trust that this plain statement of facts, indicating as it does, the tendency of a liberal expenditure to increase the resources of a colony, the producing powers of which have never yet been fairly tested, will relieve me from the charge of having been prodigal or careless in the application of the public means, while the annually recurring difference between the estimated and the actual revenue sufficiently explains the large proportion of the expenditure that has been provided for by supplementary votes, the Governor being forbidden by the colonial regulations to submit to the Council proposals for any expenditure for which the estimated revenue will not enable him to provide. I am aware that the large expenditure that took place under the supplementary votes of 1857 and 1858 has given some umbrage, and furnishes a handle to those who wish to make out that the Councils have not sufficient authority in these matters. I am most desirous to avoid this; but I can only do so by delaying useful improvements for twelve or eighteen months, and against this both planters and merchants protest. For example, a road wants repair to make it passable for the coming crop. It was not included in the estimates of last session, because the amount at the disposal of the Council was absorbed by weightier claims. It is known, however, that on the first quarter of the current year there is a surplus of nearly 30,000*l.* Are the repairs to wait for the meeting of the Council in July, and to be included in the estimates for 1860, or to be done at once by order of the Governor, and covered by a supplementary vote? The constitutional principle is to wait; the more convenient practice is to get the thing done first, and sanctioned afterwards; and this is the course that I have adopted hitherto, with the apparent concurrence of the legislature, which has in every instance sanctioned the additional expenditure, without a dissentient vote. If I knew how to avoid the necessity for it, I would do so; for I see clearly that it may be misconstrued. But time is so precious, and the Government is so much pressed for advances, as soon as it is known that it has the means, that it is hard to withhold a service to which no one seems to object.

CASH IN HAND.

Customs.

4. 8. The Treasurer states the cash in hand in the general treasury and the several cutcherries on the 1st of January 1859 to have been 117,113*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*, leaving a balance of 64,990*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in favour of the Government, after deducting the amount of deposits, and of the treasury notes still out standing. To this must be added the loan of 100,000*l.* to the Oriental Bank, which is still intact, though a portion of it represents the unexpended balances of the surplus fund votes.

Customs.

9. There was a slight increase in the imports of 1858 as compared with 1857, the last having amounted to 1,946,557*l.*, the first to 2,029,861*l.* The imports of rice and paddy were, however, less by 519,422 bushels, from causes to which I have already adverted. The export of coffee fell from 602,266 to 544,634 cwts., but the difference may be accounted for by the efforts made to ship as large a proportion of the new crop as possible, before the export duty came into operation on the 1st January 1858. The total revenue, thanks to that duty, shows an increase of 26,121*l.*

Public Works.

10. The abstract attached to the schedule of public works shows that the total expenditure of the year, including establishments and ordnance labour, was 169,742*l.*

Of this 7,361*l.* were applied to the opening of new roads, 75,661*l.* to the upkeep of roads and canals, 17,151*l.* to the repair of bridges, 17,741*l.* to new buildings, 12,381*l.* to the repair of old buildings, and 17,471*l.* in labour, under the Ordinance, No. 8. of 1848. This does not include any portion of the work done under the surplus fund votes. In general I have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the department is conducted, and with the stimulus given to it by the new scale of pay introduced under the Fixed Establishment Bill. The roads generally are in a state highly creditable to the colony. The Gampolle Bridge was opened to the public on the 1st of January, and is as remarkable for its beauty as for its utility. The seven iron lattice bridges put up in the north-western, western, and central provinces, have excited general admiration amongst both Europeans and Natives, to whom this style of bridging was unknown. And the bridge at Kattoogastotte, of which an excellent view will be found in the Ceylon Almanac of this year, is advancing satisfactorily, and will shortly connect the town of Kandy with the extensive coffee districts to the north and east. I had an opportunity of inspecting nearly the whole line of the electric telegraph, on my route from Dambool to Aripo, and I was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the work has been executed, although I am equally so that the colony has paid an unfair proportion of the cost, since India and England benefit much more largely than Ceylon by the results. Its commercial advantages to this island have yet to be developed. As a pecuniary investment it will never pay.

Government Houses at Colombo and Kandy.

11. The reports of the Deputy Commissary General and Civil Engineer show that both the buildings and furniture of the Queen's houses are in a state of good repair, and require little except the usual annual outlay in drainage and other small alterations which the climate renders indispensable.

Legislation.

12. Fifteen ordinances were passed in the session of 1858, one of which, though apparently of little moment, deserves some special mention, because of the use subsequently made of it by those who advocate a change in the composition of the Legislative Council, as a proof that the un-official members, even when unanimous, do not command the weight to which they are entitled. I allude to Ordinance, No. 4., for establishing an additional toll upon the Pangwella Road.

13. This ordinance was prepared and brought in in the usual way upon the recommendation of the government agent for the central province. It appeared to me, and to the majority of the official members, equitable in principle, the road having been recently extended for twelve miles, at a very heavy cost to the public, and forming part of that system or network of roads which were about to be connected with the Kattoogastotte Bridge, under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 5., the entire project involving an outlay of 35,000*l.* I explained fully and repeatedly that the principle upon which I had acted in all these Surplus Fund Ordinances was to secure to the public a fair return for its expenditure; that in all grants for irrigation works the lands sold to the Natives at 1*l.* per acre (being the upset price of coffee land) was sold subject to tithe; whereas coffee land, in consideration of the larger outlay required to bring it into cultivation, contributed nothing directly to the revenue; and that if, in addition to this exemption, roads were to be made in the planting districts, without some corresponding addition to the tolls, such an instance of partiality would furnish just ground of complaint. Against this it was argued by the opponents of the bill, that the planters had contributed largely to the original tracing of the road, which was true, though the money had been so badly laid out that it did not diminish the subsequent cost; and that as upon the main line between Colombo and Kandy there was an annual surplus accruing from tolls, after providing for the upkeep, no road communicating with the Kandy Road should be subjected to additional toll until this surplus was expended.

14. Upon these grounds the division took place. It was not a *small* point, but a very important point, that had been raised, and the decision of the majority was decidedly in favour of the ordinance, which has since received the Queen's assent; yet few things, in the last four years, have excited greater differences of opinion in the colony, or given

CEYLON.

rise to sharper comments from the press. My own opinion upon the subject continues unaltered. I believe that the Government and the majority were right, and that the un-official members, by their union, only showed the danger that there would be of class legislature where class interests are involved, if the influence of the Government in the Council were too much weakened.

15. Ordinance No. 5. was the result of my southern tour, and provided with great liberality for the various objects of public utility referred to in my Minute.

16. Ordinance No. 6 created a new machinery for taking up private lands for railway purposes, and the powers granted by it were not the less necessary because they have not been used, the fact of their existence having sufficed to enable the Government agent to acquire the land as fast as it was wanted, upon reasonable terms.

17. The Supplementary Supply Ordinance No. 9 passed without division or comment of any kind, though involving the large amount of 85,880*l.* 15*s.* 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*, and the Supply Ordinance for 1859 (No. 10.) gave rise to as little discussion as can be expected in a matter by which so many local interests are affected. The general impression certainly appeared to be that the proposals of the government were judicious and just.

18. A second Surplus Fund Ordinance (No. 12.) was brought in at the close of the session, to cover 14,000*l.* of military and 6,000*l.* of civil expenditure, which it was found impossible to include in the estimates for the current year, and passed unanimously, *without being referred to a committee.*

19. The two last ordinances, No. 14 and 15, gave rise to long and interesting debates, which were submitted to Her Majesty's Government at the time, in much detail. It is most gratifying to me to find that Ordinance No. 14 will receive Her Majesty's assent, for it would have been a disappointment and discouragement to the Kandyan people if this spontaneous attempt on their part to elevate and purify their social institution as regards marriage had been delayed by any technical objection to the act. It is a most important step in advance taken by an oriental people, and is well entitled at the present time to the interest which you have been pleased to manifest in its success.

20. As I am not aware of the reasons that have prevented Her Majesty's Government hitherto from coming to any decision respecting the Immigration Ordinance, I can only repeat my hope that this state of uncertainty may not be prolonged, as the delay is attended with much inconvenience to the colony, and disturbs the usual arrangements for the importation of labour from the coast of India, without substituting anything new in their place.

Survey Department.

5. 21. The accompanying memorandum from the acting Surveyor General presents a very satisfactory view of the state of the department during the year 1858, and of the results produced by the large additional strength now brought to bear upon a work, the importance of which it is impossible to overrate, for surveys and the easy acquisition of land with a government title to it are the first condition of progress and regular industry in a colony where so large a proportion of the soil is still vested in the Crown.

22. Under these circumstances it is highly important that 35,000 acres of land, or 14,000 acres in excess of 1857, should have been surveyed, and placed in the hands of the government agents for sale. The sum realized within the year amounts to 33,425*l.*, which is less by 3,507*l.* than the produce of 1857. But a considerable amount of land appears to be still undisposed of, and will be brought to account during the present year. Eight hundred and thirty lots have been sold to Native purchasers, with the effect, in every district, of creating a large additional demand. Surveys of the towns of Gampolle, Ratnapoora, Badulla, Kurnegalle, and Kandy have been already completed or are now in progress; 40 trigonometrical points have been erected, in connexion with the base line, measured near Negombo in 1857; and various other useful operations have been carried on.

23. The additional surveyors engaged by Captain Gosset have now arrived, and remunerative employment will be found for all of them, without the slightest difficulty; indeed, I believe that the whole strength of the department might be employed most advantageously for the next two years in preparing for the new commutation, which will take place throughout the central and eastern provinces in 1861, if it were possible to suspend the sales of land for so long a period. I have not the least fear, therefore, that

the increase in the establishment will prove too large for the wants of the colony. Its cost during the present year will not fall short of 20,756*l.*; but this will be amply covered by fees and landsales, if the work of improvement be not checked by those financial embarrassments to which an European war too frequently gives rise; and even if the European demand for large blocks of land for coffee planting should be suspended, there is a Native demand growing up for small allotments in so many different directions, and, judging by the prices realized, with so great a probability of increase, that I feel the greatest confidence in the results.

CEYLON.

Pearl Fishery.

24. The results obtained by the Pearl Fishery of 1858 would have been greater than they proved to be had it not been for an outbreak of cholera at a time when the prospects of the fishery were at the brightest, and the recurrence of a combination among the buyers, similar in object to that of 1857, but of a much more formidable character.

25. This combination was formed by the chetties or Hindoo merchants of Colombo, with the avowed object of obtaining the entire produce of the fishery at the very lowest possible rates, and after the two first days sale, at which the oysters realized from 19 to 19½ rupees per 1,000. It was joined by the most influential of the Indian chetties and Moorish merchants present. The combination then assumed a more organized shape; articles of agreement were entered into, any breach of which was to be visited by heavy penalties, no less than the forfeiture of 1,000 rupees from a common fund subscribed by the speculators, and deposited for the purpose, and the excommunication of the delinquent from their societies, while the wavering were restrained from abandoning the league, and others induced to join it, by the threat that the credits of any person raising competition at the sales would be dishonoured; a threat easily enforced, as the chetties are the bankers of the Native merchants. It was agreed that only one person should bid for the oysters; that he should never exceed 15 rupees, a price which was to be reduced daily as circumstances permitted; and that the quantity purchased should be divided amongst the subscribers; accordingly, when the third day's sale was commencing, the only offer made was 15 rupees, and on the Superintendent, Mr. Vane, refusing to entertain so low an offer, the speculators left the cutcherry in a body, and all further operations were suspended.

26. The prospects of the fishery were at this moment most critical. Mr. Vane was beset with difficulties much greater than those to which he was exposed in 1857. Then the yield of oysters was inexhaustible, and the abundance counteracted the lowness of the price. The combination, though formidable, was partial. Now he knew, as did the speculators, that the quantity was so limited that it was unlikely to exceed the estimate; that the oysters would be exhausted before even a reasonable return could be received at the existing prices; and that the league comprised almost every monied man at the fishery. To continue the sales, therefore, under such circumstances, would be to sacrifice the revenue to enrich private speculators. The only course was to break up the combination, or, if this failed, to abandon the fishery entirely.

27. After three days of inaction, the speculators adhering to their combination, Mr. Vane prepared to close the fishery; called for tenders for the conveyance of the troops to Colombo, and detained the vessels still in the roads, which had brought the civil officers to Arippe. These preparations for departure produced the desired effect. The chetties came forward, and themselves committed a breach of their own agreement, by offering higher prices; the combination was instantly broken; the sales were resumed, the prices rose steadily till they reached from 22 to 25 rupees for the whole of each day's fishing; some small quantities exceeding 26 rupees. Eighteen days fishing realised 24,120*l.*, and Mr. Vane's tact and judgment seemed on the point of being rewarded by large and unlooked for results, when cholera unfortunately appeared, and he was compelled to close the fishery on the 1st of April, leaving three or four millions of oysters unfished, worth at the current prices from 8*l.* to 10,000*l.*

28. The total yield of oysters during the 18 days' fishing was 16,485,254 oysters; 1,084 boats were employed, averaging 15,208 per boat. The total quantity composing the Government share, the divers' portion being deducted, was 12,364,539 oysters, realising an average of 19½ rupees, or 1*l.* 19*s.* per 1,000 throughout, the total receipts

CEYLON.

being, as I have before stated, 24,120*l.*, or 3,756*l.* in excess of the receipts of the fishery of 1857.

29. The fishery, therefore, all things considered, must be regarded as eminently successful, though it is well known that the profits of the purchasers were enormous. The whole credit of the success is due to Mr. Vane, who showed a degree of firmness and decision of character which under the circumstances in which he was placed are most creditable to him.

30. It was considered doubtful if the oysters remaining on the *cheval paar* would live till the following year. Mr. Vane, however, recorded his opinion, that if they did the pearls would be very valuable, the justice of which has been proved by the almost unexampled success of this year's fishery.

Public Health.

31. The southern and eastern provinces were visited by an unusually severe outbreak of cholera during the months of July and August. The return prepared by the principal civil medical officer shows 615 deaths out of 1,732 seizures in these districts; but there is, I fear, much reason to believe that these figures are very far below the actual number of cases. Many thousands of pilgrims flock annually to the great Hindoo festival at Kattragam, during which cholera raged with fearful virulence, and the roads to and from the temple and village were represented at the time as strewed with the dead and dying. The return is necessarily limited to cases which come under the treatment or observation of medical officers, while it is feared many more occurred, and proved fatal, far beyond their reach. There were 118 cases at Aripo, of which 66 were fatal, before the crowd attracted by the pearl fishery could be dispersed by its close. Manaar is seldom free from cholera, as it is the port by which the Tamil labourers employed on the coffee estates enter Ceylon, and last year 331 deaths were reported out of 420. In other respects the public health during the past year may be considered to have been satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

The Right Honourable Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

&c.

&c.

&c.

CEYLON.

Enclosure 1. in No. 17.

Encl. 1. in No. 17.

STATE of available Cash Balance of the Colony for the Years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and 1858.

1st January 1855:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-	-	-	150,894	18	9½			
Deduct Revenue Debts	-	-	-	104,556	18	4½			
„ Advances	-	-	-	5,556	8	2			
Net available Balance	-	-	-	110,113	6	6½	40,781	12	3½

1st January 1856:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-	-	-	218,477	19	11½			
Deduct Revenue Debts	-	-	-	104,746	14	6½			
„ Surcharges	-	-	-	2,173	15	2½			
„ Advances	-	-	-	8,755	14	4½			
Net available Balance	-	-	-	115,676	4	1½	102,801	15	10½

1st January 1857:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-	-	-	259,638	5	11½			
Deduct Revenue Debts	-	-	-	103,062	17	11½			
„ Surcharges	-	-	-	2,380	3	2			
Net available Balance	-	-	-	105,443	1	1½	154,195	4	9½

1st January 1858:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-	-	-	269,886	17	1½			
Deduct Revenue Debts	-	-	-	103,721	1	2½			
„ Surcharges	-	-	-	711	19	11½			
„ Widows' Fund	-	-	-	25,712	0	0			
Net available Balance	-	-	-	130,145	1	2½	139,741	15	11½

1st January 1859:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favour of the Ceylon Government	-	-	-	217,572	1	5½			
Deduct Revenue Debts	-	-	-	99,556	8	7½			
„ Surcharges	-	-	-	2,319	10	3½			
„ Widows' Fund	-	-	-	25,712	0	0			
Net available Balance	-	-	-	127,587	18	10½	* 89,984	2	7

* Inclusive of the sum of 20,000*l.* voted under the Surplus Fund Ordinance, No. 12 of 1858.

Enclosure 2. in No. 17.

Encl. 2. in No. 17.

RETURN showing the Estimated and Actual Revenue, the Actual Expenditure, and the Surplus Revenue of each Year from 1855 to 1858.

		Estimated Revenue.	Actual Revenue.	Actual Expenditure.	Surplus Revenue.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854	- -	404,000 0 0	408,041 0 0	393,268 0 0	14,773 0 0
1855	- -	416,100 0 0	476,273 0 0	405,610 0 0	70,663 0 0
1856	- -	430,100 0 0	504,174 0 0	457,137 0 0	47,037 0 0
1857	- -	492,000 0 0	578,028 0 0	535,804 0 0	42,224 0 0
1858	- -	571,500 0 0	654,961 0 0	594,333 0 0	60,628 0 0

CEYLON.

Encl. 3. in No. 17.

Enclosure 3. in No. 17.

RETURN of Surplus Fund Votes and Balances remaining on the 31st December 1858.

	Ordinance No. 17. of 1856.	Ordinance No. 11. of 1857.	Ordinance No. 17. of 1857.	Ordinance No. 5. of 1858.	Ordinance No. 12. of 1858.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount voted - -	37,000 0 0*	9,000 0 0	51,000 0 0†	60,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	177,000 0 0
Amount expended to 31st December 1858 - - }	33,930 13 10½	8,935 1 7	24,490 10 4½	5,251 9 4	- - -	72,607 15 2
Balance remaining - -	3,069 6 1½	64 18 5	26,509 9 7½	54,748 10 8	20,000 0 0	104,392 4 10
Aggregate Expenditure to 31st March 1859	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	8,868 6 11½
Balance - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- £	95,523 17 10½

* Less 1,000L. for promoting the settlement of immigrant agriculturists at Kandella.

† Less 13,000L. to cover excess of expenditure by the agent in London in 1856.

(Signed) T. SKINNER,
Acting Auditor General.

Encl. 4. in No. 17

Enclosure 4. in No. 17.

STATEMENT of Cash in hand in the General Treasury and the several Cutcheries on the
1st January 1859.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount in coined money - -	106,818	6	7½			
„ Treasury notes - -	1	0	0			
„ Bank notes - -	10,294	10	0			
				117,113	16	7½
Deduct—						
Amount of Deposits - -	51,146	18	6½			
Amount of Treasury notes in circulation	976	0	0			
				52,122	18	6½
Balance in favour of Government - -				64,990	18	1

General Treasury, Colombo,
14th May 1859.(Signed) J. CAULFIELD,
Treasurer.

N.B.—In addition to the above Balance a loan of 100,000L. made in 1857 and 1858 remains in the Oriental Bank Corporation.

Encl. 5. in No. 17.

Enclosure 5 in No. 17.

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo,
February 17, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a return showing the progress of my department during the year 1858.

The amount of work done in the year is very satisfactory; the area of land surveyed and forwarded to the government agents being 35,000 acres, or 14,000 acres in excess of 1857. The sum realised by land sales and fees amounts to 33,425L., but this is less than that of 1857 by 3,507L., and the difference is attributable to the fact that the government agents did not advertise for sale all the lots submitted to them by this department.

The applications and interests of the Natives in all the provinces have received very particular attention, no less than about 830 lots having been sold to that class of applicants. The result is highly satisfactory, as in many cases where one application was attended to numbers of others were applied for.

To be added to the year's progress, as detailed in the return, are the following operations :—

CEYLON.

1. Completion of a survey of the town of Gampolla.
2. Do. do. do. Ratnapoora.
3. Nearly do. do. Kornegalle.
4. Surveying part of Badulla.
5. Commencement of that very important and long delayed undertaking, the survey of Kandy.
6. The erection of 40 trigonometrical points in the western province, for extending a triangulation from the new base measured near Negombo in 1857.
7. The reduction of the new base line, and calculation of the new triangulation by Mr. Winzer.
8. Surveyed and submitted plans, &c. of the land required by the railway company for the Colombo terminus and 12 miles of the line.

Out of these operations valuable results and large proceeds may be looked for during 1859.

I wish this to be considered as a mere memorandum of the *principal operations* which have engaged my department during the year. The usual annual return and report will be prepared and submitted in due time by my successor, Captain Sim.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. EVATT.

CEYLON.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

LANDS surveyed, sent to Government Agents for sale, and sold, &c, during 1858.

PROVINCES.	Forwarded for sale, &c.			Advertised first time.		Sold and otherwise disposed of.				Advertised but not sold at the end of the Year.		Unadvertised in the hands of the Government Agents at the end of the Year.		Title Plans forwarded.	
	No. of Lots.	Extents.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	Fees.	Sold for.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.	No. of Lots.	Extents.
Western -	319	A. R. P. 5,152 1 9 30	£ s. d. 1,674 4 6	426	A. R. P. 4,151 2 34 80	296	A. R. P. 2,795 0 35 60	£ s. d. 817 12 0	£ s. d. 7,985 13 6	168	A. R. P. 1,526 1 23	389	A. R. P. 979 0 11 70	86	A. R. P. 1,536 3 35
Central -	531	A. R. P. 17,675 3 10	£ s. d. 3,909 3 0	342	A. R. P. 16,083 0 9	259	A. R. P. 9,593 1 3 27	£ s. d. 1,694 0 6	£ s. d. 14,772 6 4	134	A. R. P. 7,624 3 30	182	A. R. P. 1,556 2 17	195	A. R. P. 11,398 2 32
Southern -	180	A. R. P. 1,975 2 16	£ s. d. 436 11 0	82	A. R. P. 514 0 5	37	A. R. P. 89 1 3	£ s. d. 46 17 0	£ s. d. 223 7 2	48	A. R. P. 426 1 25	95	A. R. P. 849 3 28	11	A. R. P. 54 0 21
Eastern -	433	A. R. P. 3,714 0 33	£ s. d. 1,210 17 0	337	A. R. P. 2,801 1 34	228	A. R. P. 1,938 1 15	£ s. d. 629 16 0	£ s. d. 4,691 6 6	172	A. R. P. 1,323 0 18	85	A. R. P. 912 0 25	13	A. R. P. 19 1 30
North-Western -	203	A. R. P. 7,253 0 19	£ s. d. 1,999 19 0	88	A. R. P. 3,738 1 15	53	A. R. P. 1,335 3 34	£ s. d. 256 4 0	£ s. d. 2,308 11 0	65	A. R. P. 3,174 3 16	114	A. R. P. 3,473 1 4	66	A. R. P. 2,782 1 10
Total -	2,166	35,163 0 7 30	£ s. d. 7,930 14 6	1,275	27,988 2 17 80	873	15,752 0 10 87	£ s. d. 3,444 9 6	£ s. d. 29,981 4 6	587	£ s. d. 14,075 2 32	865	£ s. d. 7,771 0 5 70	371	£ s. d. 15,785 2 8

(Signed) H. A. EVATT

HONG KONG.

Hong Kong.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN BOWRING to the Right Honourable Sir EDWARD B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 54.)

Government Offices, Victoria,

SIR,

Hong Kong, 29th March 1859.

I HAVE now the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1858. I venture to anticipate your satisfaction with the results which the volume records, and trust that the present position and progress of the colony, and its bright prospects for the future, will enable you to approve of the general conduct of the government during the five years in which I have been honoured with its charge.

2. As the period is now approaching when I am to surrender my trust into other hands I deem myself justified in laying before you the statistics of my administration, and in comparing the five years which preceded that administration with the five years succeeding.

3. The following are the Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, Parliamentary Grants, Population, and Shipping, from the years 1849 to 1858 inclusive :—

TABLE showing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of HONG KONG, PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS, POPULATION, and SHIPPING for the years from 1849 to 1858 inclusive.

Years.	Revenue.	Parliamentary Grant.	Total Income.	Expenditure.	Population.	Shipping.
	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Nos. Tons.
1849 - -	23,617 3 3	25,000	48,617 3 3	38,986 1 6½	29,507	902 293,465
1850 - -	23,526 16 4½	20,000	43,526 16 4½	34,314 12 3	33,292	883 299,609
1851 - -	23,721 7 6½	15,500	39,221 7 6½	34,115 7 6	32,983	1,082 377,084
1852 - -	21,331 1 8½	12,000	33,331 1 8½	34,765 12 9½	37,058	1,097 443,383
1853 - -	24,700 6 3½	9,200	33,900 6 3½	36,418 12 0½	39,017	1,103 447,053
Total for 5 years -	116,896 15 1½	81,700	198,596 15 1½	178,600 6 1½	171,857	5,067 1,859,994
Average per Annum	23,379 7 0	16,340	39,719 7 0	35,720 1 2½	34,371	1,013 371,998
1854 - -	27,045 3 5½	4,400	31,445 3 5½	34,635 0 1	56,011	1,100 443,354
1855 - -	47,973 11 1½	-	47,973 11 1½	40,813 11 2	72,925	1,736 604,570
1856 - -	35,500 8 9	-	35,500 8 9	42,426 6 5½	71,730	2,091 811,307
1857 - -	58,842 2 7	*10,000	68,842 2 7	65,497 19 7½	77,094	1,070 541,063
1858 - -	62,476 9 8½	10,000	72,476 9 8½	62,979 8 1½	75,503	1,007 716,476
Total for 5 years -	231,837 15 6½	24,400	256,237 15 6½	246,352 5 5½	353,263	7,004 3,116,770
Average per Annum	46,367 11 1½	4,880	51,247 11 1½	49,270 9 1	70,652	1,400 623,354

* For measures of precaution and defence.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
9th March 1859.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

4. I have placed among the Parliamentary grants the two sums amounting to 20,000*l.* voted in 1857 and 1858, but as they are on account of special objects, and not for the ordinary services of the colony, I may state that the Imperial assistance should be estimated at *nil* since 1854, or if averaged over the five years of my government it amounts to 880*l.* per annum, in contrast to an average of 16,340*l.* for the five years preceding.

5. As regards the ordinary revenue it has been doubled during my administration, and the last year of my government, as compared with the last year of my predecessor, presents an increase of 37,776*l.*, or more than 150 per cent.

6. The total income of the colony (including Parliamentary grants) presents an average augmentation of 11,528*l.*, being about 30 per cent., but taking the last year of the

HONG KONG. two periods the difference in favour of the second is 26,561*l.*, or more than 70 per cent.

7. With reference to population the average increase during the last five years is 36,281, or more than 100 per cent. But, as regards the returns of 1857 and 1858, I am persuaded there must be some error, as the continued building of Chinese houses, crowded to excess and occupied at greatly raised rents, affords substantial evidence of a great augmentation of the population during last year, and that augmentation I feel justified in believing is not less than 10,000 souls. I calculate the present population of the colony at 85,000. Its fluctuating and ambulatory character may excuse and account for inaccuracies in the census.

8. Nor are the shipping returns less satisfactory. They show in the five years an average yearly increase of 487 vessels representing 251,350 tons, being 68 per cent. The increase of 1853, as compared with 1858, is 269,423 tons, representing 60 per cent. The extension of our relations with all the countries of the furthest East,—the circumstance that Hong Kong is the place of arrival and departure of mail communications, and the head quarters of all the great commercial establishments in China are likely to preserve and perpetuate the rank it has now obtained of being one of the most extensively visited harbours to the east of the Cape of Good Hope. There are few ports whose tonnage returns equal or even approach those of Hong Kong.

9. I would add here that during the last five years the general value of lands and houses has enormously increased, and that in the last year no important sales of Crown lands have taken place, so that this source of revenue has not come to our aid. There is difficulty in finding locations either for Europeans or Chinese. I expect that the development of relations with the ports in China to the north, with Japan and other circumjacent regions, will lead to an extension of the population towards the east, while to the west the growth of a superior character of Chinese houses is one of the most marked and pleasing signs of improvement. There can be no doubt of the present opulence of many of the Chinese settlers who came penniless to the colony, and who from labourers and fishermen have become shopkeepers; from shopkeepers, merchants and shipowners. Their relations with foreign countries are everywhere spreading, and they carry on their transactions with many of the subordinate ports which are little known to or visited by foreign merchants. I may mention, as illustrative of Chinese enterprise, that in a place only lately opened to foreign trade (Zamboanga, in the Island of Mindanao), the importation in 1858 by the Chinese of manufactures, principally British, amounted in value to 400,000*l.* sterling.

10. As regards the prospective resources of the colony, a valuable piece of ground in the most frequented part of the city will be soon at the disposal of Government, and will, no doubt, produce a considerable sum of money. The purchase of the large house (as advised in my Despatch, No. 16, of 25th January last) for the new Civil Hospital will enable us to remove the mount called Pedder's Hill, on the top of which the present incommodious Civil Hospital stands; the materials of the mount will be conveniently near to assist in recoveries from the sea and the formation of the Praya, and the removal of these materials will leave a large level spot as public property. If any portion of it, or the building erected on it, should be appropriated to public purposes, the Court House and Post Office might be removed thither without any public inconvenience, and for these edifices a great price would be given in consequence of their adjacency to the sea frontage.

11. I cannot doubt that both to the east and the west of the city there will ere long be an augmented demand for land. Population is rapidly growing in the neighbourhood of Spring Gardens, and the removal of Hospital Hill, which is close to that locality, would provide valuable ground and furnish excellent materials for extending and utilizing the sea frontage. The western extremity of the city is filling even more rapidly with Chinese settlers; and I quite concur with the Colonial Secretary in opinion, that the deprecatory observations on the futurity of the colony, which have obtained circulation in England, are the results of a hasty and uninformed judgment, to which the statistics of Hong Kong furnish an emphatic and most convincing reply.

12. The improvement of the roads leading to Aberdeen and Stanley, and the erection of the Aberdeen Docks, now nearly completed, will bring to the southern portions of the island a population whose presence must tend greatly to increase the value of the Crown property.

13. The possession of the small peninsula opposite the island is become of more and more importance. To say nothing of questions of military and naval defence, it would be of great commercial and sanatory value to us (while to the Chinese it is not only of no

value, but a seat of anarchy and a source of embarrassment). I hope, therefore, Hong Kong. measures will be taken for obtaining a cession of this tract of land.

14. One subject I wish again to press on the attention of Her Majesty's Government. There have been many proposals to tax the commerce of Hong Kong for general and special purposes. Believing that the satisfactory development of our prosperity is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions, I trust no custom house machinery will ever be introduced either for the collection of tariff or harbour dues, or for any purpose which may check the free ingress and egress of all shipping to and from the port, nor the free transfer of commodities from hand to hand. Hong Kong presents another example of the elasticity and potency of unrestricted commerce, which in my judgment has more than counterbalanced the barrenness of its soil, the absence of agricultural and manufacturing industry, the disadvantages of its climate, and every impediment which could clog its progress. Its magnificent harbour invites the flags of all nations, which there is nothing in its legislation to repel. Its laws give no privileges to any, but afford equal security to all; and I am persuaded the equity with which justice is administered is beginning to produce a most salutary effect on the minds of the Chinese people.

15. The year through which we have passed has been one of great embarrassment. The unhappy misunderstandings among the officials, fomented by passionate partizanship and by a reckless and slanderous newspaper press, made the conduct of public affairs one of extreme difficulty; and in a colony like this where, if functionaries are displaced, it is not easy to find fit successors; the distance from home and the indifferent reputation of the climate (not a good one certainly, but its unhealthiness has been much exaggerated,) render it so little attractive, that few desirable candidates can be found for official employment. I had sometimes reason to fear that the machinery of administration would be absolutely dislocated by the unseemly contentions which could not but greatly impair the efficiency of officers so frequently engaged in mutual recriminations. Many heads of departments were absent from the colony; illness interfered with the usefulness of others. We are now happily at peace, and I hope shall continue so, and that my successor will be spared the anxieties which have surrounded me. I am, however, strongly confirmed in one conclusion, that it is impossible the public service should not suffer if functionaries, especially the higher ones, are allowed to profit by private professional engagements. The enormous power and influence of the great commercial houses in China, when associated directly or indirectly with personal pecuniary advantages, which they are able to confer on public officers who are permitted to be employed and engaged by them, cannot but create a conflict between duties not always compatible with one another. The colony is quite in a condition liberally to provide for its public servants, and to Her Majesty's Government and to the colony alone ought they to look for remuneration of their services. In reference to colonial disputes, I cannot pass over in silence the great claims which Mr. Caldwell, the Registrar General, has upon the colony and upon Her Majesty's Government for rendering aid, such as he only could render, and of which so much evidence has been given in the past year, while everything has been done by his enemies to undermine his reputation and destroy his efficiency.

16. The satisfactory state of the revenue for the past year is referred to in the report of the Colonial Secretary, and the position of the finances is still more gratifying from the fact, that the augmentation of the income grows not out of transitory and uncertain but from those permanent sources which are more likely to be strengthened than weakened by the progress of time. It must be remembered that we have no direct taxation, but the police and lighting rates, which barely suffice to cover the expenditure under those particular heads. One impost has been removed whose productiveness was small and whose annoyances and inconvenience great, that upon salt, which having been wholly freed from taxation, has become an article of increased commercial importance.

17. After providing for the fixed and ordinary expenses, a handsome balance will remain for application to public works. Those recommended for special attention will be adequately provided for. The Government grant for the Civil Hospital has enabled us to obtain a building singularly well adapted to the object, placed on a very healthy locality, and which being in good repair saves the costs, delays, and uncertainties of erecting a new building.

18. The gaol too will be promptly proceeded with. Beyond the Parliamentary grant for 5,000*l.* it is doubtful whether more outlay will be required for the present year. The healthiness and accessibleness of the site has determined in the negative the question of its removal, considerations paramount to that of the value of the ground were it sold by the Government for general purposes.

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19. I regret that I am compelled to leave the Bowring Praya in a far less advanced state than I had hoped for. As to the importance of this great improvement, its value to the salubrity—the police—the appearance of Victoria—there cannot be two disinterested opinions. It has been advocated by a succession of governors, strongly recommended by a commission specially appointed to weigh all the objections which could be urged against it and finally approved by positive instructions from Mr. Secretary Labouchere (in his Despatch, No. 128. of 10th November 1856), whenever, after the completion of the public works then sanctioned, the funds of the colony should furnish means for its construction. The resistance to the Praya which has been perseveringly led by Mr. Dent, L.C., has been confined to a few influential, I may say almost omnipotent, merchants in this colony, who having largely invaded the rights of the Crown and appropriated to their private use what was always intended (as all the leases provide) for public purposes, have, whenever the question came to be discussed of the erection of that portion of the Praya of which they hold the frontage, created and kept alive an opposition under which the Government has been temporarily compelled to succumb. I should mention here that the whole amount of land recovered and appropriated by the lessees against the rights of the Crown amounts to 298,685 square feet *in addition* to leases granting only 260,326 square feet. The opposition to the Praya was carried home to the Colonial Office, but Mr. Secretary Labouchere advised that Mr. Dent's objections had been duly considered by Her Majesty's Government but were not held to be valid. I received Lord Stanley's orders, in the apprehension that the finances of the colony might become embarrassed, not to appropriate to the work any of the income of 1858. But in the meanwhile and without the expenditure of a farthing of the public money the Chinese have consented to make and to pay rent for a large portion of the Praya in front of their holdings, and their work is now nearly completed. Amicable arrangements have been come to with most of the holders of marine lots in front of the city, and that portion of the Praya of which the frontage properly belongs to the Government is in process of construction; the immediate question which required solution was the formation of that part of the Praya between the sea and the property leased to Messrs. Dent and Messrs. Lindsay to the west, and which would enable us to communicate from the parade ground with Pedder's wharf (in addition to which a very small portion to the east, on ground claimed by the military authorities, but surrendered by General Straubenzee, after examination, would have to be constructed). The estimate for the sea wall, filling in, and piers proposed to be added for the special convenience of Messrs. Dent and Lindsay, was calculated at less than 14,000*l.* on tenders received.

20. I caused a thorough investigation to be undertaken as to the finances of the colony, and learnt from the Colonial Treasurer that there would be a balance of from 20,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*, at least, applicable to public works when all those legislated for had been completed, and that this sum was lying at interest in the Oriental Bank Corporation, waiting for appropriation.

21. In this satisfactory state of things I called upon the Acting Attorney General to advise me as to the most prudent and conciliatory mode of proceeding consistent with the instructions from home and with the proper maintenance of the rights of the Crown. After much consideration, and as I have reason to know, consultation with other and non-official members of the Legislature, he advised me to introduce an ordinance which he assured me would pass the Legislature, as by it he would secure compensation to all parties who might possibly be injured by the measure, and moreover provide for the surrender of that right belonging to the Crown, of arbitrarily fixing the rental of any land conceded to the lessees, or the amount of damages suffered, by allowing a reference to the valuation of a jury. The Acting Attorney General thought that this proceeding by ordinance whose provisions were all subjected to the revision of the Council, and whose character was even more conciliatory and conceding than I had ever contemplated, was far preferable to my applying simply for a supplementary vote for 14,000*l.*, the sum proposed to be taken in the service of 1859 for the work under consideration. The Surveyor General had also urged objections against my proceeding by asking a vote of money for the proposed work, and carrying it out under the undoubted powers which the leases gave to the Crown. He represented that his own position was a very painful one, having the undivided responsibility of fixing rents and damages,—a responsibility from which he desired to be relieved. I therefore appointed the Surveyor General, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Acting Attorney General to draw up an ordinance, and was advised by them individually and collectively that they were satisfied with the ordinance they had prepared; it gave every security to the finances of the colony, remedied the objections of the Surveyor General, and was satisfactory to the Acting Attorney General in all questions of a legal character.

Mr. Dent (voting however alone) opposed the first reading of the ordinance (of which I have the honour to enclose a copy). Before the second reading my shattered health compelled me to leave for the Philippine Islands, and I found on my return that no progress had been made other than the insertion of the ordinance thrice in the Government Gazette.

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The second reading was appointed for the 4th February last. Before going into Council I had some conversation with the Acting Attorney General, who then informed me he was satisfied the ordinance would pass, as he had the assurance of one of the non-official members that it would have his support, and I certainly never doubted that there would be a majority in its favour. The Judge was absent on judicial duty, the Lieutenant Governor from indisposition. Mr. Dent moved the adjournment of the question *sine die*; he was seconded by Mr. Jardine (both these gentlemen have large interests in the question) and supported by Mr. Lyall; these are the three non-official members. The Colonial Secretary voted with Mr. Dent. He stated that he approved of the Praya, but was averse to legislation on the subject, and did not see his way through the financial question. In this no doubt he exercised an independent judgment of which I do not complain, especially as Mr. Mercer was absent when the ordinance was prepared; but the Surveyor General, one of the authors of the ordinance, voted against it, saying he had changed his mind. The chief magistrate also voted against the Government, and the second reading was rejected by 6 to 3. The term of my office approaching, my health much shaken, I have not thought it becoming to exercise the power with which I am invested, and to pass the ordinance, or to use the authority of the Crown under the leases, and carry on the works in spite of opposition; but shall leave to my successor the carrying forward of an undertaking, whose benefits to the colony it is not easy to exaggerate, and for whose progress and completion the surplus revenue, which I am happy to say is still augmenting, will afford ample means.

22. As regards the proceedings of the Legislative Council on the three points adverted to by the Colonial Secretary, viz., the Opium Ordinance, the Markets' Ordinance, and the Chinese Immigrants' Ordinance, I have to observe:—

23. That though the opium monopoly was not so productive as was anticipated in the year 1858, the defalcation is principally attributable to the flight from the colony of so large a number of Chinese, estimated at not less than twenty-five thousand, and this exodus is specially worthy of attention, as showing the immense influence exercised by the mandarins of the continent upon the Chinese population, nor will that influence be broken until the Chinese inhabitants of Hong Kong can dissociate themselves from the power of clanship, and secure their families and relatives who reside in China from the persecution of the authorities. The Chinese contractor was among those who fled, and though his security was compelled to pay the amount for which he had given bond, it was necessary to make concessions to the new contractor at a final loss to the revenue of about 950*l*. This source of income is likely to increase with the increase of the number of the Chinese in the colony. While this Despatch was being written tenders for the Opium Farm have been received, and the highest for the current year is 6,812*l*. 10*s*., nearly equal to the highest in 1858.

24. As regards the Markets' Ordinance I cannot attribute to its provisions the high price of the necessaries of life. There is abundant field for competition among the owners of shops and stalls, but the powers and the habits of confederation among the Chinese are too strong to be dealt with by legislation. European residents have inherited from the East India Company some of the mischiefs of their monopoly. Their agents were somewhat reckless in expenditure provided for at the public cost. Table allowances were made on the most liberal scale, and enormous prices were paid for all the articles of consumption. A system grew up which has never been wholly superseded. Our compradors (or managers of the household) invariably pocket large profits on domestic expenditure. They come to an understanding with the market people, who also thoroughly understand one another, advancing prices wherever they are able, and resisting their reduction with too successful pertinacity. We are in the hands of our Chinese servants, and few persons (not being Chinese) are to be found in the colony capable of making a bargain with the sellers of commodities. The Market Ordinance, so far as it has operated, certainly diminished the evils of monopoly, and transferred to the Government in the shape of augmented rental a portion at least of the profit which was before in the hands of two or three privileged persons. Some modifications, the result of experience, will, I think, be desirable; but in my judgment they ought not to affect the more substantial provisions of the Markets' Ordinance.

25. The question of emigration grows in importance as the demand for labour increases in the colonies. Hong Kong continues to be the port whence emigrants who can pay

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26. And if I may here be allowed an observation on the more general question, I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible *imported labour* should in the long run compete with the free labour of Eastern tropical countries, whose powers of production are now beginning to develop themselves. How should the West Indies, with no advantage of soil or climate, and to whom the cost of the labourer must be heavy, whether from the charge of introducing him or the value of his labour when introduced, how should they stand the rivalry of regions where every natural advantage is associated with the moderate pay and moderate profits of the native cultivator? In the countries I have visited, such as Siam, the Netherland, and the Spanish Eastern Archipelago, there are productive capabilities which, whenever they are assisted by capital and improved machinery, must place the West Indian Colonies at an immense disadvantage. In the course of a short time the agricultural element in China will probably receive a vast development. In two years, and with small advance in prices, China was able to fill the vacuum in the silk markets produced by the failure of the French and Italian crops, and to send to Europe in a single season for a value of nearly 10,000,000*l.* sterling of raw silk. I believe her cotton-producing power to be enormous, and am surprised that more attention has not been given to China in the discussions which have often looked for a supply of this all-important raw material to regions whence only disappointment will come. The southern provinces of China have also great aptitudes for sugar production. I hope I may be excused this seeming digression.

27. I concur with the views of the Colonial Secretary as to the Legislative Council, and think its action must be more limited and defined. Since the arrival of Mr. Chisholm Anstey in the colony the character of the Council has undergone a marked change. Instead of a consultative body called in to assist the Government in the matters submitted to it by the Government, Mr. Anstey declared that he took his seat as an independent legislator, and not as a servant of the Crown, and that he was there, if he thought fit, to criticize and oppose the views of the executive. It has happened that when an ordinance has been prepared by Mr. Anstey, and when not a word of previous objection has been breathed by him in his official capacity, he has taken occasion to attack both Government and ordinance, and to do his best to lower the character and credit of the Government in the public opinion by his opposition. I have even known him in Council repudiate the authority of the Superior Law Officers of the

Crown when their opinions had been formally conveyed to the Government. Elaborate speeches were frequently made to be reproduced in the scurrilous newspapers of the colony; nor was Mr. Anstey's example without influence on other official members, for the Chief Magistrate generally followed in Mr. Anstey's footsteps, and on more than one occasion (and without the slightest previous communication) vituperated the Government in strong terms. I have referred to the proceedings of the Surveyor General in reference to the Bowring Praya Ordinance, in which, without any previous advice to me, he followed the example of Mr. Anstey, and voted against the very ordinance he had prepared and recommended. It appears to me absolutely necessary that the powers of the Legislative Council should be better understood, and that the disposition so strongly manifested to encroach upon the functions of the executive should be checked by some authoritative opinion of Her Majesty's Government, on which subject I beg to refer specially to my despatch, No. 116, of 30th August 1858, enclosing Dr. Bridges' views of the matter.

28. The appointment of an Auditor General in the colony as a distinct officer has undoubtedly been of great benefit, and Mr. Rennie has discharged his duties with thorough efficiency; but as the Auditor General is equally the servant of the diplomatic and colonial departments, receiving half of his salary from each, some new arrangement will be necessitated by the removal of the Superintendency from Hong Kong. There will be an advantage to the colony from the absolute separation of the colonial from the diplomatic and consular accounts, and no doubt some such arrangement will have to be made by Her Majesty's Treasury.

29. I must mention here that two other colonial officers receive pay from the funds voted by Parliament to the Superintendency, namely, the Attorney General, who has 250*l.* a year for his services as adviser to the Chief Superintendent, and 200*l.* to the Surveyor General for his trouble in revising estimates, preparing plans, or rendering other services connected with his department in the consular ports. This want will have to be provided for, I imagine, independently of the Colonial Surveyor.

30. Provision will have to be made for the loss of the services of gentlemen of the Commissariat who have been employed by the Colonial Treasurer. Within a few days we have had notice that two of these gentlemen are about to leave.

31. It is undoubtedly desirable that some additional accommodation should be provided for the Harbour Master, but the plan suggested two years ago appeared to me, on the representations of the Acting Surveyor General, Mr. Walker, so objectionable, and necessitated so large a sacrifice of valuable Government property, that I directed the stoppage of the works, and think the subject must be reconsidered in connection with the Praya; meanwhile, though the offices of the Harbour Master are not in all respects what could be wished, they are very tolerably convenient, and the situation in all respects commodious.

32. The Colonial Secretary refers to the importance of obtaining a greater supply of water for the city. I agree with him that it is a very useful object, but I do not think the ordinary revenue of the colony can be properly or judiciously applied in furnishing capital for construction of water-works. Such undertaking are not ordinarily, nor can they in my judgment be wisely, entered upon from the yearly public revenues. If a joint stock company cannot be formed—respecting which there may be some doubt,—the means might be furnished by the issue of bonds, whose interest would be secured by a water rate. There would be some advantage in the existence of such securities as capital is often overflowing here, and it is sometimes difficult to invest it at even 5 or 6 per cent. interest. The large houses have refused to receive deposits on such terms. It is certainly no obligation of the Government to furnish individuals with water any more than any other necessary of life, and, as undertakings such as water companies must partake of the character of commercial speculations and involve great responsibilities, I am strongly of opinion that our annual income is not fairly applicable to such speculations. I am quite willing that the Government should give appropriate facilities for an important public object, but the objections to a Government building Sailors' Homes, or engaging the ordinary sources of revenue in supplying the pecuniary means for costly undertakings of uncertain result are, in my mind, unanswerable. It is said we have recognised the principle in establishing a lighting rate, but there is no analogy. No great outlay of capital is involved in the erection of lamp-posts and the providing lamps. It is a far different question when a Government undertakes to provide water for the inhabitants of a large city, that undertaking implies a large expenditure of capital. Mr. Cleverly's estimate of outlay is 25,000*l.*, but after this expenditure there may be difficulty in collecting a water rate from the Chinese population, who have been in the habit of supplying themselves from the tanks or the multitudinous streams in the

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colony. There is another great objection. It has been openly avowed by some of the opponents of the Praya, that it is their purpose "to swamp" the surplus revenue by devoting it to other and hitherto unauthorized public works, and water-works have been prominently put forward for this very object. I doubt not that the question will be maturely considered by my successor, and that he will take care no sinister private interest shall prevail over or defeat a great public good. One of the peculiar difficulties against which this Government has to struggle is the enormous influence wielded by the great and opulent commercial houses, against whose power and in opposition to whose personal views it is hard to contend.

33. The provisional manner in which the place of Colonial Chaplain has been frequently but necessarily filled has been a subject of just complaint from the Bishop. I hope it will be obviated in future. I concur in the deserved compliments which the Colonial Secretary pays to the value of Mr. Beach's services during the absence of Mr. Irwin.

34. The outward appearance, discipline, and general efficiency of the police have greatly improved during the past year; and the complaints under this head which formerly were frequently addressed to the Government are now much diminished in number. Considering the indifferent materials from which the selection must necessarily be made, the present state of the corps is satisfactory and creditable to Mr. May.

35. I have referred elsewhere to the services of Mr. Caldwell; they have been so many and great, and he has been so cruelly and unjustly persecuted, that I should be glad if some mark of the favourable opinion of Her Majesty's Government, as to the value of those services, were conferred upon him; and I beg to call to your attention the honourable testimony borne to his deservings in a Despatch from the Admiral, on leaving this station, copy of which is forwarded by this mail. Mr. Caldwell has several times intimated to me his wish to quit the public service in the colony, his reputation having been so severely attacked and his influence damaged by Mr. Anstey; these attacks still finding echoes in our infamous public press. I cannot but say that the loss of Mr. Caldwell would be irreparable. I have used my personal solicitations to detain him here.

36. I have, in an earlier part of this report, referred to the question of the removal of the gaol, concurring with the opinion of the Colonial Secretary, that the present site should not be abandoned. There will be the means of enlargement, and to some extent of classification, and though there is much to be desired in the way of change, there have been notable improvements in gaol managements during the last two years to which I can bear personal testimony.

37. The Acting Colonial Surgeon's Report makes suggestions to which becoming attention will no doubt be paid. He is quite right in stating that the registers of deaths, and the same may be said of births and marriages, are in an unsatisfactory state. I had some conversation with the Bishop on the subject, and he assured me he was by no means contented with the existing state of things, and the attention of Mr. Anstey, while Attorney General, was called to the matter. I do not know whether the returns kept by ministers of the Church of England, either in this colony or in China, are sent to the Registrar General in London, as the Consular Records are. I believe not; nor in the case of catholic or dissenting registers does any proper machinery exist, as far as I am aware, for reporting the statistics of birth, marriages, and mortality, to the metropolis. A question was sometime ago submitted to the law authorities at home, as to the validity of protestant marriages celebrated at Macao; the question was left in so uncertain a state that many of Her Majesty's subjects, who had been married at Macao, have thought it prudent to be re-married in Hong Kong. As the Legislative Council of Hong Kong is charged with law-making for British subjects in China, and as no doubt the late treaties will necessitate the transfer of that power to some other authority, I hope steps will be taken to secure accurate records from the clergy of the Church of England in the various ports of China, which probably the Bishop of Victoria would not be unwilling to transmit to the proper authorities in England.

38. It may be stated, notwithstanding the mortality of the past year, which I deem exceptional, that there is a progressive melioration in the sanitary state of the colony. Chinese habits are difficult to change or even to modify, but there is no comparison between the general cleanliness of Hong Kong and that of any Chinese city which I have ever visited. I would add, that in Eastern regions generally there are few cities so free from nuisances in the parts occupied by the native population. Comparisons between the well-governed towns of Great Britain and the crowded parts of Oriental regions are scarcely just to those who have immense difficulties to overcome; but the present state of Hong Kong may be advantageously contrasted with that of many localities as they existed in England a generation or two ago.

39. The progress of education has been satisfactory. We owe much to the zeal and aptitude of Mr. Lobscheid, the school inspector. The Government has given every encouragement to public instruction, and instead of 915*l.* voted for the service of 1858, has allotted 1,500*l.* for the present year. Hong Kong.

40. I have so often expressed an opinion as to the inconvenience and absurdity of making the sovereign the standard of exchange in a country where gold is no legal tender, and of maintaining an accountancy in pounds sterling and pence in a colony where not a merchant, shopkeeper, or individual has any transaction except in dollars and cents, that it would be wearisome and intrusive to repeat what I have so urgently put forward. As regards the diplomatic service now provided for by the colonial chest, the removal of the Superintendency from Hong Kong will necessitate a change of system, and after the strong representations that have been made to the Government, I trust the colony will be allowed to keep its accounts, as everybody but the Commissariat and the Government keeps them, in the only currency that is recognized by the usages of the place.

41. I am informed that it is intended to enlarge the dimensions of the dock at Aberdeen, and that it will be competent to receive the largest frigates which come to these waters. The works are constructed of granite and admirably efficient.

42. The elevation of the water springs at Pokfoolum being considerably above that of Victoria, the supply of water abundant, and the distance not more than four miles, I am of opinion with the Colonial Secretary, that this locality presents many advantages for furnishing water for the city; but as I have before reverted to the subject in this report, I would add that I cannot come to a satisfactory conclusion in the existing divergence of opinion, as to the course best to be pursued. I have only to recommend a thorough investigation of the matter. Meanwhile, I am happy to say that the number of fire engines in the colony belonging to Europeans and Chinese is considerable, and that a little improvement in the organization of the service attending in cases of fire, would greatly add to the public security. No part of the city is far from the sea, and this advantage ought to be made more available than it has hitherto been.

43. My views as to the desirableness of adding the small peninsula opposite Hong Kong to the colony, it will have been seen, are in perfect accordance with Mr. Mercer's. It will not, I fear, be so easy now to negotiate for its transfer as it would have been some months ago when we obtained land for the Wampoa consulate; but I am strongly of opinion the sooner the question is discussed with the Chinese authorities the greater is the chance of a favourable solution.

44. I need not go over the ground pre-occupied by Mr. Mercer in reference to the effect which the extension of trade with China will have upon the colony of Hong Kong. I believe that extension will add to its prosperity as a commercial depôt, and to its value as a territorial possession. Never had a colony to contend against a greater amount of prejudice, ignorance, and misrepresentation. If having "a bad name" could have ruined it its perdition was inevitable, but who can withstand the testimony of facts and figures—facts *in* figures I might say. Hong Kong is the seat and the centre, the directing and controlling place, round which the vast commerce of the China seas is gathered. Here are the heads of the great houses, the merchant princes of the east; from hence the instructions emanate which govern the proceedings of all the ports in China. Here are the principal banking establishments; here may be said to be the intelligence and the concentrated wealth of the largest commercial establishments in the Oriental world. If Hong Kong be but a "barren and unhealthy rock," it has directed millions upon millions to the Imperial and Indian treasuries, through immense disadvantages, contrarieties, and an "unworthy reputation;" it has made its way to a commercial position, of which a few years ago nobody dreamed. On every side fine houses are rising, hills are being levelled, valleys filled, ground recovered from the sea. I have had occasion to hear the opinion of almost every foreign traveller who for years has visited the colony; and while they have looked on the shipping, traversed the streets, and witnessed the general activity of the population, I have seldom heard anything but expressions of wonder and admiration, with the frequent addition, "You, indeed, know how to colonize!" How few harbours in the world can boast as Hong Kong can of an average daily entrance of 2,000 tons of mercantile shipping. In how few has there been so rapid an increase of foreign population, seeking the protection of our laws and the participation in our commerce! Such progress, such prosperity, such prospects, are the best answer to all misrepresentations, whatever be their origin, their motive, or their circulation.

45. The far greater question, as to the influence which may hereafter result from the Russian movements down the Amoor, their settlements on the coast of Tartary, their position at the Court of Peking would open the field to far graver considerations

Hong Kong. than I can here venture to discuss; nor ought the vast extension of the territory of the United States and the wonderful augmentation of the population and commerce in North-western America to be lost sight of in anticipating and providing against future contingencies.

46. I conclude with the consciousness that in surrendering the important trust confided to me by Her Gracious Majesty, after trials and perils of no common character, neither the public interests nor the honour of the Crown have suffered while confided to my keeping, and in the humble hope that such will be the view of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart. M.P., (Signed) JOHN BOWRING.
&c. &c.

Encl. 1. in
No. 18.

Enclosure 1. in No. 18.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1858.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
8th March 1859.

SIR,

THE last Return having this day reached me, I am enabled to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the year 1858.

2. I must remind your Excellency that I was absent on leave from the colony until the end of November, and, consequently, have not had an opportunity of personally watching the progress of events during the year in question.

3. I base my remarks, therefore, on the returns themselves, my own lengthened experience of Hong Kong, and such information as I have obtained in casual conversations with Mr. Bridges, who, during my absence in England, discharged so efficiently the duties of my department.

4. It will be seen that the revenue for 1858 is 62,476*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*, being a net increase of 3,634*l.* 7*s.* 1½*d.* over that for the previous year, while the expenditure in 1858 has been 62,979*l.* 8*s.* 1¾*d.*, or 2,518*l.* 11*s.* 5¼*d.* less than in 1857. This result is so far satisfactory on both sides of the account.

5. Of the public works I am happy to say that the orders of the Secretary of State are being now carried out, that tenders have been invited for extending the gaol, and that at the end of the current month a new and commodious civil hospital will be provided.

6. The principal points in the legislation of the year are the regulation of the sale of opium by Ordinance No. 2, the organization of a new market system under Ordinance No. 9, and the control of vessels carrying Chinese emigrants by Ordinance No. 13.

7. The total number of ordinances passed during the year is 15, of which, though none have been disallowed, only 10 have as yet received the confirmation of Her Majesty.

8. The Market Ordinance it will, I think, be necessary to revise, as there are defects in the working of it, and I may remark, that if it was intended to cheapen provisions, it has failed in its object, for all the necessaries of life are at ruinous prices. I hope that this subject will again receive the attention of the Legislature.

9. The Legislative Council has been remodelled, and will, I have no doubt, prove a most useful body; but I fear that it oversteps its proper functions at times, occupying itself with matters having no concern with legislation, and trenching on the powers of the executive. This, if unchecked, will sooner or later be found a serious evil.

10. Coming in succession to the Civil Department, I have first to note the satisfactory measure by which a severance was effected between the two offices of Colonial Secretary and Auditor General, for it was simply impossible that one person could conduct with efficiency the duties of both.

11. The Colonial Treasury has been carried on with aid from the Commissariat, but as this was never intended as a permanent arrangement, I think it right to suggest to your Excellency the necessity of putting that department on a proper footing.

12. The Harbour Master is much in want of suitable accommodation for his department, and I strongly advise the completion of the building commenced for this service over two years ago.

13. In noticing the recent return of the Colonial Chaplain, I take the opportunity of mentioning that among the community I hear but one opinion of the very satisfactory way in which the duties of that office have been discharged during Mr. Irwin's absence, by the Rev. Mr. Beach.

14. The Police of the colony is in better form than I have ever seen it, and considering what I learn to have been the troubled and hazardous condition of the colony during certain periods of the past year, I look upon Messrs. May and Caldwell as entitled to great credit for the activity and zeal shown by them in their respective posts.

15. The gaol has, I have already said, been commenced upon for extension, and I wish to state my objection to the scheme at one time proposed, whereby a second gaol was to be built elsewhere.

16. This measure would entail a double establishment and an increased expenditure, while it is most important to bear in mind the fact that the present site is the healthiest in the island, a matter of no little consequence when a crowded gaol is the subject of our consideration.

17. In due time the enlargement of the gaol will render possible the proper classification of prisoners.

18. The Registrar General has given 75,003 as the population of the island; but I am greatly inclined to question the accuracy of this return, it is less than last year's by some 1,600, and only about 4,000 over that for 1856. It is most evident to me that the crowds in the houses and streets are far more numerous than I have ever yet seen them at any period since the census was first taken.

19. The outlying villages may have diminished in population, for the Colonial Surgeon's Report makes mention of an estimated number of 1,400 falling victims to cholera in Aberdeen alone, but as the main contributor to the Census Return is the city of Victoria, I look to the districts of this city for

verification of my own opinion, and in this opinion, if I mistake not, I am supported by you Hong Kong. Excellency.

20. Appended to the Registrar General's Returns will be found 1st, the Military Mortality for the year, and 2ndly, the Colonial Surgeon's Report.

21. As regards the mortality in the garrison, though 6.52 per cent. is an increase on 5.60 of the preceding year, yet keeping in view the severe summer and the hard work endured by the soldiery during 1858, it does not show any great cause for anxiety, for the per-centage was 4.62 in a year of almost perfect quietude (1856), and the present slightly increased rate falls into insignificance before the 17.89 per cent. of 1850, or the still more disastrous times, now long past, of 1843 and 1844, in which latter year the mortality was over 35 per cent.

22. The death of Dr. Harland, a serious public loss, occurred during the year; he is the fourth colonial surgeon whom I have seen fall a victim to the climate.

23. His temporary successor has given a very creditable report considering his short tenure of office.

24. The statistics suggested by Dr. Chaldecott might, I imagine, be procured, and the point is one worth consideration, but it must not be inferred from Dr. Chaldecott's words that no register of deaths is preserved.

25. There might be some difficulty in ascertaining particulars of disease, but record is made of all deaths occurring amongst the European community.

26. Dr. Chaldecott mentions two diseases as of novel appearance in the colony, and a knowledge of Hong Kong for nearly 15 years enables me to confirm his statement, that cholera and hydrophobia were never known here before.

27. Of the latter malady, the Acting Colonial Surgeon says little beyond registering the fact of its appearance, and I presume he is right in attributing cholera to the filthy state of the native parts of the town.

28. This is a point which has long engaged the attention of the Government, and though our efforts have been sometimes unworthily opposed, and sometimes even frustrated, I perceive much improvement in the general cleanliness of Victoria.

29. Still in a crowded city like this, with an oriental population, it is vain to expect freedom from nuisances such as are complained of.

30. The various suggestions of the Acting Colonial Surgeon will of course receive due consideration, and I observe nothing more in his report requiring special observation.

31. This report, however, establishes the fact which I have never heard disputed that the past summer has been unusually unhealthy.

32. Your Excellency will be happy to see that education has made some progress in the Chinese community, and considerable interest is attached to the Report of the Education Committee, which, by your Excellency's direction has been already published in the Government Gazette for general information.

33. On the subject of the specie circulation of the colony, the members of the Executive Council have recently given their individual opinions, and these are now before the Secretary of State for the colonies.

34. Concerning imports and exports I have but to repeat what has been stated in former years, that the judicious absence of a Custom House renders it impossible to give a return of these.

35. But a reference to the Harbour Master's Tables is very satisfactory, showing an increase in the tonnage arrived in port of 175,413 tons.

36. Of the gaol I have already spoken, and in the Blue Book will be found the fullest particulars connected with the conduct of it.

37. It remains for me to notice the dock in course of erection by Mr. Lamont at Aberdeen, a most important work, and one that will have much influence on the future of the colony. It will not, I believe, be opened for use before the next autumn, but when ready it will prove of great service to Her Majesty's navy, and the mercantile shipping resorting to the port.

38. When the road between Victoria and Aberdeen shall have been widened and completed, I calculate upon a rise in the value of portions of the land on either side, especially in the neighbourhood of Pokfoolum, where building is now commenced on one or more of the farm lots sold there in June 1856.

39. I may here mention one public work of the very highest consequence which is under consideration—the water-works. The paucity of hill streams on this side of the island renders the procural of a sufficient water supply for the city a matter of extreme difficulty. In the winter or dry season this want is severely felt by all classes of the community, and it is in this very season that conflagrations occur among the Chinese houses, when water in readiness and abundance is a demand of necessity.

40. In my opinion the best plan is to lead the water from Pokfoolum, round the side of the hill, attracting the smaller rivulets in the course; but I make this suggestion with diffidence, as I know that professional engineers are not agreed as to the proper mode to be adopted.

41. An early decision must be come to, as this is the most important work that presses on the attention of the Government.

42. I cannot refrain from bringing to notice the trouble, inconvenience, and even danger that arises from the growth of a village at Teem-cha-soy, on the Kowloong shore. It has been raised by pirates, resettlers, and vagabonds of every kind; and being within ten minutes sail of Victoria, it affords an easy refuge to criminals wishing to fly from justice.

43. It is of course on Chinese territory, but the Kowloong mandarin exercises no jurisdiction over it, and the evil will continue until a part of the Kowloong Peninsula shall become a dependency of this colony, a measure I would strongly advocate, and about which I cannot foresee much difficulty.

44. I may point out in support of this suggestion, that the Kowloong shore forms the northern side of Hong Kong harbour, and it may be made a question with foreign nations whether a foreign vessel anchored on that side of the harbour is amenable to the laws of this colony.

HONG KONG.

45. And now, sir, in concluding this report, I hope I am not going beyond my duty in making some remarks on the political position of Hong Kong, and the erroneous notions concerning it, that I observe sedulously presented to the public at home.

46. In an article in the "Times" newspaper (17th December 1858) are to be found misrepresentations which the most ordinary local knowledge is sufficient to correct.

47. We are told that "Hong Kong feels itself humiliated and displaced by the opening up of China," and that "all the success, whether of arms or of diplomacy, which is so valuable to the rest of the world, and so important to the great interests of humanity, is rather carped at than celebrated," here. It is further stated that the cause is to be traced to the "natural tendency" of the Hong Kong merchants "towards their own interests."

48. Now this proposition is entirely incorrect, and I presume it to be founded, if it have any foundation, on the worthless remarks of the colonial newspapers, to which little regard, save for party purposes, is ever given by any one.

49. But the allegation of the cause is based on a thorough misconception of the character and position of the Hong Kong merchants. The writer evidently assumes that the merchants here resident have no connection with the ports of China or beyond the colony, whereas this may be said to a certain extent only of the storekeeping and small trading interests.

50. It is a fact that of all the leading firms in China there is hardly one that for the last few years has not found it necessary to have at least its agency in this place, and at the present moment a large majority of the principal houses have established here their head quarters, and from this port all their commercial operations with China and elsewhere are regulated and directed.

51. The head partners of the houses reside in Hong Kong, and their subordinates carry on the business at Shanghai and the other ports under instructions from this centre; in like manner the banks have their chief manager here, and their sub-branches elsewhere on the coast.

52. Surely if in a distant part of his estate a landed proprietor shall discover a valuable mine, the worth of his mansion house is not diminished but increased thereby; and as he must have some position from which to manage the affairs of his whole property, he will hardly think it expedient to abandon his house, ready made to his hand, and fix his abode in a locality, which for purposes of general management is, to say the least, not a whit more convenient.

53. If a new colony were founded by us in these seas (and of this there is no rumour, and, I may add, for it no necessity), it might in time be a greater place than an "insalubrious rock" like Hong Kong; but it is absurd to say that a British colony with British institutions situated on the seaboard of China is not of more assistance to "the policy of civilization" and the highest interests of commerce than any single port in the China waters, the mercantile transactions with which, however extensive they may be, the chief foreign merchants have decided to conduct from the old established rendezvous and starting point of postal communication.

54. As to the assertion that "Hong Kong has grown into whatever importance it may at present possess from its proximity to the single privileged port of Canton," the truth lies precisely in the contrary direction, and any China merchant knows that the less trade thrives in Canton, the more will it prosper here. Canton's difficulty was Hong Kong's opportunity, and on the burning of the factories in November 1856, and the consequent withdrawal of the foreign merchants from that port, a trade sprung up in this harbour, which has continued ever since, but was altogether unknown, so long as Canton flourished.

55. I am afraid that the only true blot hit by the writer to whom I am referring lies in our "half-a-dozen newspapers," for it is not to be denied that the senseless and shameless scurrility of the Hong Kong press is a reproach to the colony, and a discredit to the community who encourage it by their support, though they may be free from the imputation of directly inciting it by their approval.

56. I do not imagine that the political importance of Hong Kong in another aspect has escaped the notice of Her Majesty's Government; but, while on the subject, I may say a few words on the following point:—The Russians have now firmly established their colonial settlements at the mouth of the Amoor River and elsewhere in Tartary. In due time a naval depôt, and doubtless on a large scale, will be found there. This will exercise its influence all along the coast of China.

57. How shall such influence be counteracted? It has been answered that the new colony of British Columbia has been fostered with this view; but though the prestige of that settlement may be felt on the Eastern waters of the North Pacific, it will be unknown on the Asiatic side; and even could it be recognized there, it must be borne in mind that British Columbia is 5,000 miles from the nearest station of the great China trade, while Hong Kong, with its long organized naval yard; and its convenient dock, is within easy distance of most of the Chinese ports, and not more than 1,000 miles from the port furthest north, and nearest the Amoor, which is again equally distant from the same port, and further than Hong Kong from the others.

58. I hold it then for certain, that we must have and retain a colony on the China coast; we have one and there is no occasion for another; many considerations point to the inexpediency of another; let us then make the most of what we have, and not become chargeable with the folly of crying down the utility or under-rating the importance of Hongkong on the groundless supposition that the colony will be "displaced by the opening up of China," or the still more fanciful idea that it will be found "inimical to the policy of civilization."

59. I have only to add that the remarks I have just offered to your Excellency's notice are made in entire ignorance of the intentions of the Secretary of State for the colonies with regard to Hong Kong and its future government, which will probably be known to us in the course of the ensuing month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir John Bowring,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2. in No. 18.

HONG KONG.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT FOR 1858.

Civil Hospital, Victoria, 3rd March 1859.

No. 18.

THE universally lamented and untimely death of my friend, the late Colonial Surgeon, has imposed upon me the duty of making this report, a duty which will be but very imperfectly fulfilled on account of the short period I have held the office, and in consequence of my time having been so fully occupied, in the practice of my profession and other duties.

I would call the attention of the Government to the fact, that one most important source of information which would make the Colonial Surgeon's Report of much more value than it is at present, is entirely wanting to him. There is no proper registration of deaths in this colony, and therefore when it is asked what per-centage of the inhabitants of this island die from climatic diseases, and what form do these diseases assume, only a general and imperfect answer can be given. And yet it is of great importance that this answer should be as perfect and comprehensive as possible, for it is daily more and more satisfactorily proved that a very great proportion of the diseases to which men fell victims are owing to causes which are entirely preventable by human means, and which only need to be made evident in order that they may be got rid of.

I would submit that it is highly desirable, and at the same time very feasible, that the same system of registration of deaths should be established here as is in use in England, and that interment of the body should not be allowed to take place until the sexton has received a proper form of certificate of death, filled up and signed by the medical attendant of the deceased.

Of course this should not be insisted upon in the case of the Chinese, nor perhaps in that of the Portuguese inhabitants of the colony, as all the former and many of the latter are not attended by duly qualified medical men, and those who do attend them would not be able to fill up the certificates in a satisfactory manner.

Were the registration of the causes of death properly carried out, we should in a few years be in possession of a body of statistics which might prove of the greatest value.

That the sanitary condition of this colony stands in great need of improvement has been more than once pointed out in previous Colonial Surgeons' Reports; but I am moved to insist upon this necessity the more pressing in the present report, in consequence of the colony having been visited during the year by one of the most terrible of those "preventable diseases," whose ravages, if not entirely owing to, are at least most fearfully aggravated and extended by neglect of proper drainage and cleanliness, the evil results of which must act with double force in a community so crowded together as that of Victoria, and in a climate so favourable to the decomposition of animal and vegetable products.

I am happy to learn that steps are to be taken to remedy the defects at present existing.

Previously to last autumn, no well authenticated case of cholera was recorded to have happened in Hong Kong, and so confident were the medical practitioners of the immunity of the place, that it was at first thought by them that the cases of the disease at first reported were in fact merely severe cases of diarrhœa. But it soon became only too evident that the disease amongst us was the true Asiatic cholera, for no single symptom was wanting, and it destroyed its victims in an equally short space of time.

As was to be predicted of it, the disease first attacked the worst lodged and worst fed part of the community, the Chinese, then some Indian servants, and then the European seamen both on shore and afloat, and at the same time some of the soldiers of the garrison and the prisoners in the gaol. Finally, in three cases it attacked the higher class of European inhabitants of the colony, and in one of these cases proved fatal.

At the same time the Portuguese in Macao suffered severely from the disease, and cases occurred in the forces at Canton and in some of the men-of-war in the river.

The disease afterwards visited the east coast, reached Shanghai, and it is also reported raged with great virulence over a great part of the Japanese empire.

What per-centage of the Chinese population of Hong Kong was attacked by the disease, and what proportion of those attacked died, it has been impossible to ascertain. It is well known, however, that a very considerable number were carried off by it. For instance, it was reported that as many as 1,400 were destroyed by the disease at Aberdeen.

The late Colonial Surgeon attempted to procure information about the disease from the Chinese medical practitioners of the place, and many reports were sent in to him; but these, except that they prove that the disease was wide spread, are comparatively valueless. Some boast of having saved two-thirds and others three-fourths of their patients; but in these numbers most probably many cases of the simple diarrhœa which accompanies cholera, and is supposed to be its first stage, was doubtless included.

The remedies they advise for it are numerous, but they are all derived from the vegetable kingdom, and not likely to prove beneficial.

Their disquisitions as to the nature and cause of the disease are as vague and unsatisfactory as those of their European brethren.

The following is an approximate estimate of the number of cases of cholera which occurred among the white population afloat and ashore:—

CASES OF CHOLERA ASIATIC, OCCURRING IN VICTORIA IN 1858.

Localities.	Cases.	Deaths.
Military Hospital - - - - -	29	14
Naval Hospital - - - - -	7	3
Civil Hospital - - - - -	13	5
Gaol - - - - -	3	2
Seamen's Hospital, St. Francis' Hospital, and private patients	23	10
Total - - - - -	75	34

Mortality, 45.33.

Q

HONG KONG.

With regard to the beneficial effects of treatment in these cases much cannot be said. One practice which was adopted by the late Colonial Surgeon, and which in several cases appeared to have a most marked and decided beneficial effect, was the early application of the solid nitrate of silver, so as to make a circular blister about four inches in diameter over the pit of the stomach.

In the cases which came under my observation, this plan, even when adopted at a too advanced period of the disease, never failed to check the vomiting and to prolong life, though it did not always succeed in saving it. I consider the treatment well worthy of a more extended trial.

Hydrophobia, another disease heretofore unknown in the colony, also made its appearance during the past year. In one case the attack came on six weeks to a day after the infliction of the bite, and proved fatal in a few hours. Another man, who was bitten by the same dog, fell a victim to the disease in the commencement of the present year, the first symptom showing itself ten months after the bite. In this instance an attempt at suicide was made, which shortened the patient's sufferings by a few hours.

The climatic diseases usually prevalent in the colony were of their ordinary character, with the exception of fever, which was somewhat more prevalent than usual, and manifested a tendency in many cases to put on a typhoid form, with imperfect intermissions.

In the autumn of the year a number of cases of phagedaenic ulcers of the leg and foot, of a most obstinate and formidable character, occurred amongst the Chinese prisoners in the gaol, and in two or three instances also attacked the Europeans.

An extensive trial of the prophylactic virtue of quinine wine (a dose being given the first thing every morning), was made in the garrison at Canton, and the reports of the different medical officers bore evidence to its very great utility and benefit.

I would strongly recommend that a similar plan be adopted with those constables who are sent to the out-lying stations on the island, such as Aberdeen, Stanley, Sow-ke-wan, and Siwan, for I have noted, not only since I have been Acting Colonial Surgeon, but also in former years, that the worst and most obstinate cases of fever and dysentery arise among the men placed at these out stations; and I believe it to be a fact that, if their stay be at all prolonged at either of these stations, scarcely one escapes altogether the ill effects of the malaria.

These cases of disease might, I believe, be almost entirely avoided if the Superintendent of Police were to insist that the constables stationed at these places should take every morning a dose, either of quinine mixture or of quinine wine.

The experiment of establishing a sanatorium on Victoria Peak, recommended some years ago by the late Dr. Morrison, then Colonial Surgeon, has again been agitated during the past year, and, I believe, stands a fair chance of being put to the proof, both by the military authorities and by private enterprise. I believe that the difference of temperature would tell very favourably in many of the diseases which occur here.

I shall conclude this report with the following Statistical Tables having reference to the Gaol, the Civil Hospital, the Seamen's Hospital, the Police Force, and the state of the weather during the year:—

VICTORIA GAOL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858 :—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Abcess - - - -	2	—	Brought over	91	18
Amentia - - - -	1	—	Icterus - - - -	1	—
Berri Berri - - - -	16	9	Hernia - - - -	1	1
Bronchitis - - - -	3	—	Ophthalmia - - - -	2	—
Cholera - - - -	3	2	Orchitis - - - -	2	—
Colica - - - -	2	—	Phagedaenic Ulcers - - - -	27	2
Constipatio - - - -	5	—	Phthisis - - - -	1	—
Contusio - - - -	2	—	Pneumonia - - - -	3	2
Diarrhoea - - - -	15	1	Rheumatism - - - -	11	—
Dysentery - - - -	7	2	Syphilis, primary - - - -	22	—
Epilepsy - - - -	1	—	Syphilis, secondary - - - -	4	—
Febris Intermittens - - - -	22	3	Scabies - - - -	4	—
Febris Remittens - - - -	6	—	Wounds, gunshot - - - -	2	—
Hæmatemesis - - - -	1	1	Wounds, incised - - - -	1	—
Hæmorrhoids - - - -	1	—	Dyspepsia - - - -	1	—
Hæmoptysis - - - -	4	—			
Carried over	91	18	Total -	163	23

Mortality, 13.69.

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the Victoria Gaol, during the Year 1858 :—

Average Strength.	Total Sick.	Total Deaths.	Rate of Sickness.	Rate of Mortality.
266	163	23	61.27 per cent.	8.64

THE CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and the Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Abscess	4	—	Brought forward	319	70
Amputations	2	—	Hepatitis	1	—
Anasarca	6	2	Hæmoptysis	2	—
Apoplexia	1	1	Hæmorrhoids	1	—
Ascites	2	2	Heart disease	1	—
Bronchitis	3	1	Icterus	1	—
Burns	5	—	Lapra	1	—
Cholera Asiatica	14	6	Mania	1	—
Colica	21	—	Orchitis	2	—
Constipatio	15	—	Phthisis	1	—
Contusio	11	—	Pneumonia	1	—
Delirium tremens	6	3	Psora	4	—
Diarrhœa	32	6	Rheumatism	29	—
Diplopia	1	—	Stricture of Urethra	2	1
Dysentery	49	23	Syphilis, primary	32	1
Dyspepsia	1	—	Syphilis, secondary	8	3
Febris intermittens	108	21	Ulcers	22	1
Febris remittens	22	5	Vertigo	1	—
Fistula in Ano	1	—	Variola	5	2
Fractura	3	—	Wounds, gunshot	9	2
Gonorrhœa	11	—	Wounds, incised	7	—
Granular conjunctiva	1	—			
Carried over	319	70	Total	450	80

Mortality, 17.88 per cent.

The apparently heavy mortality in this hospital is owing to the number of deaths entered under the heads of "Dysentery," and "Intermittent and Remittent Fever," and "Diarrhœa." A very large majority of the fatal cases under these heads were destitute Chinese and Indians, who had been picked up by the police in a moribund condition, and were only brought up to the hospital to die.

THE SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.	Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Amputation	1	—	Brought forward	165	39
Berri Berri	1	—	Ophthalmia	2	—
Cholera Asiatica	4	3	Orchitis	4	—
Colica	2	—	Paralysis	5	—
Contusions	4	—	Phthisis	6	—
Debility	1	1	Pneumonia	3	—
Delirium tremens	6	2	Rheumatism	20	2
Diarrhœa	7	—	Scorbutus	7	1
Dislocation	1	1	Spinal Disease	1	—
Dysentery	64	27	Stricture of Urethra	2	—
Febris intermittens	51	4	Syphilis, primary	33	—
Febris remittens	1	—	Syphilis, secondary	7	—
Fractures	6	—	Ulcers	11	—
Gastritis	1	—	Variola	12	6
Gonorrhœa	2	—	Wounds, gunshot	2	—
Hepatitis	7	1	Wounds, incised	1	—
Hernia	3	—	Other diseases	7	—
Heart Disease	3	—			
Carried over	165	39	Total	288	48

Mortality $16\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Q 2

HONG KONG.

THE POLICE.

Table showing the Admissions into Hospital and Deaths during the Year 1858.

Month.	European.		Indian.		Chinese.		Total Admissions.	Total Deaths.
	Admis- sions.	Deaths	Admis- sions.	Deaths	Admis- sions.	Deaths		
January	2	—	25	—	1	—	28	—
February	4	—	4	1	—	—	8	1
March	3	—	7	—	2	—	12	—
April	5	—	10	—	1	—	16	—
May	4	—	13	—	—	—	17	—
June	7	—	14	1	3	1	24	2
July	5	1	32	—	1	—	38	1
August	4	—	27	1	3	—	34	1
September	8	—	17	—	1	—	26	—
October	3	—	18	—	—	—	21	—
November	3	—	11	1	—	—	14	1
December	3	1	20	—	1	—	24	1
Totals	51	2	198	4	13	1	257	7

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the Hong Kong Police Force in the Year 1858:—

Strength.	Total Sick.	Total Deaths.	Rate of Sickness.	Rate of Mortality.
279	257	7	92.11 per cent.	2.50 per cent.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

Showing the range of the Thermometer and Barometer, Direction of the Wind, Rain fall, &c.

Month.	Thermometer.			Barometer.			Wind.	Weather.
	Max.	Med.	Min.	Max.	Med.	Min.		
January	66	62	50	29.94	29.89	29.83	N.E. & E.	Rain 15 days, 2.80 inches; only a few fine days.
February	67	63	57	29.95	29.90	29.86	E. & N.E.	Rain 0.28, 5 slight showers.
March	75	67	59	29.85	29.77	29.75	E.N.E.	Rain 18 days, 3.69 inches; overcast.
April	80	71	66	29.82	29.77	29.73	E.S.E.	Rain 6 days, 0.71 inches; generally fine.
May	81	78	75	29.70	29.66	29.64	E.—S.W.—S.E.	Rain 22 days, 15.45 inches; a few fine days.
June	86	82	79	29.61	29.57	29.54	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 19 days; 27.91 inches; heavy thunder from 22d to 25th—18.50 inches rain fell in three days; latter part fine.
July	91	84	78	29.97	29.83	29.70	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 21 days, 6.37 inches.
August	91	84	78	29.94	29.69	29.57	S.W.—S.S.W.—S.E.	Rain 17 days, 12.07 inches.
September	90	83	72	30.12	29.80	29.67	S.W.—S.E.—N.E.	Rain 16 days, 5.42 inches.
October	82	78	69	29.92	29.70	29.64	S.W.—E.—N.E.	Rain 0.54, clear, fine.
November	77	66	60	30.09	29.91	29.79	N.E.—S.W.—E.N.E.	Rain 0.15.
December	72	65	59	30.00	29.87	29.75	E.N.E.—N.W.	Rain 0.14; several days cloudy, overcast.

I have to add a few observations with regard to the Central Police Station, the Civil Hospital, and the Gaol.

The drainage of the Central Police Station is in a very unsatisfactory state, and requires immediate amendment. It seems that the station is entirely surrounded by a drain which has not a sufficient fall into the sewer, and that the contents of two privies pass into this drain, and must remain there for a considerable time.

Such an arrangement cannot but be injurious to the health of the many persons who inhabit the station, and I have myself in the summer several times noticed a most offensive effluvium to arise from it.

The Superintendent of Police has, I believe, called the attention of the Surveyor General to the matter.

I need not dilate upon the necessity which exists for the enlargement of the present Gaol, and the improvement of the hospital accommodation therein, as the Government is fully alive to it, and has already appropriated funds for the purpose.

A large and commodious house situate at West Point, on a site which, as far as sanitary matters are concerned, is unobjectionable, has been purchased by the Government for a Civil Hospital. On the fitness of the building for this purpose I cannot now report, as its former owners have not as yet vacated it.

T. A. CHALDECOTT,
Acting Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 3. in No. 18.

HONG KONG.

No. 35.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Encl. 3. in
No. 18.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter and return from the Superintendent of Police, in explanation of a portion of the Colonial Surgeon's Report, which appeared in the Government Gazette, of the 19th ultimo.

By order,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
8th April 1859.

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 24.

SIR,

Police Department, Victoria, Hong Kong, 5th April 1859.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your knowledge for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that perceiving from the Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1858, published in Government Gazette of the 19th ultimo, that the statistical returns referring to sickness and mortality in the police force of the colony did not clearly exhibit the actual amount of sickness as compared with strength of force, I wrote to the Acting Colonial Surgeon on the subject, enclosing a return compiled from the daily state of sick. The substance of my note was, that although his statistics were fully comprehended by him and myself, that they were likely to lead to erroneous conclusions by the casual observer; and that as the actual amount of sickness had been so remarkably small when the calibre of the force and its duties were considered, and more especially when placed in juxta-position with the amount of sickness in the military forces in the colony, that I considered it very desirable that the return should be clear and explicit. With this view I enclosed the return before alluded to, and begged that he would forward it with his remarks thereon, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, to be considered as an addendum to the yearly report before specified.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon replied to my note (of his note I enclose a copy), promising to comply with my request.

From a verbal communication with you, I ascertained that the return has not been forwarded; the cause I am assured being that the Acting Colonial Surgeon forgot the subject, having to occupy himself in making arrangements for his passage to England by last mail.

I have, therefore, the honour to lay the return before you for the information of his Excellency.

I have, &c.

C. MAY,
Superintendent of Police.

Honourable W. T. Mercer, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of MEN SICK during the year 1858, inclusive of trifling Cases not admitted into Hospital:—

Month.	No. of Men sick.	No. of Days sick.	Remarks.
January - - -	30	147	Total average Strength of Force—279. Total Mortality during Year—7.
February - - -	21	89	
March - - -	17	89	
April - - -	20	126	
May - - -	28	130	
June - - -	19	99	
July - - -	43	246	
August - - -	39	276	
September - - -	40	269	
October - - -	31	188	
November - - -	24	227	
December - - -	32	264	
	344	2,150	

Showing an average of sick, as compared with average strength of force, of 5 $\frac{8}{100}$ per diem, or average daily sick of 2.6 per cent.

C. MAY,
Superintendent of Police.

LABUAN.**LABUAN.****No. 19.****No. 19.**

**COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EDWARDES to the Right Honourable
Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.**

(No. 10.)

**Government Offices, Labuan,
27th April 1859.**

SIR,

**I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for the year 1858 for the Colony of
Labuan.**

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE EDWARDES,

**To the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.**

Governor.

**MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND THE
IONIAN ISLANDS.**

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

No. 20.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir J. FERGUSON, accompanying Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1858.

"I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1858, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

"2. The revenue shows a decrease of 1,919*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* from that of the former year 1857.

"3. The chief decrease has been on the duty on spirits, 1,332*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.*, and on the rent of wine houses, viz., 755*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

"4. This is accounted for by the diminished trade of the place, the greater import of malt liquor, the reduced price and consequent increased consumption thereof, more especially by the troops.

"5. Notwithstanding this decrease from the revenue of the two previous years of 1856-57, yet there is an increase over that of many of those preceding, whilst the expenditure has been lessened, and will be still further reduced if the proposed changes in the colonial and police departments are carried out.

"6. At the end of the year I had paid the remainder of the debt due to the Imperial Treasury, except 532*l.* sterling, which sum was since paid on 19th January 1859.

"7. I have been enabled also to make many important improvements in the fortress, amongst which the new Post Office has been finished, at a cost of 2,274*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* The rent received by the local revenue is 150*l.* sterling per annum.

"8. A side entrance from the city to the market and waterport has been made, to the great comfort and convenience of the troops and inhabitants.

"9. The stone jetty near the Bay-side Barrier has been extended, to the great advantage of trade.

"10. The market has been improved by the erection of new sheds, and has produced a corresponding increase of revenue.

"11. A handsome column, supporting a colossal bust of Lord Heathfield, has been erected in the Alameda Gardens.

"12. The new rates and duties of the port department, confirmed by Order in Council dated 5th June 1858, has been more equitable and just than the former one, and is likely to produce a better revenue.

"13. The drainage of the town has been ameliorated by large pipes, carrying the sewerage beyond the breakwater.

"14. The alterations and additions to the convict establishment will soon be completed, and the Admiralty works at the new mole and naval tank are steadily progressing."

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT to his Grace
the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 106.)

MY LORD DUKE,

Palace, Valletta, 21st September 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1858

2. I regret it is not so complete or correct as I would have wished it to be.

3. A portion of the statistical information I find, on examination, to be given on data insufficient to be depended upon, and there are errors in the Auditor General's accounts, which, from the originals having been already forwarded to England, I could not alter, but which I have pointed out, and, as far as possible, explained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

The Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

MEMORANDUM to accompany the Blue Book of Malta for 1858.

THE gross revenue of Malta during the five years immediately preceding 1858 was as follows, in round numbers :—

1853	-	£123,305.	1856	-	-	£141,168
1854	-	123,771.	1857	-	-	132,861
1855	-	126,738.	Fractions	-	-	3
Yearly average		-	-	-	-	£129,569.

The gross receipt of revenue for the year 1858 is 142,382*l.* 10*s.* 4*½d.*, being in round numbers 9,700*l.* more than that of 1857. A large portion of this increase is accounted for by receipts of an extraordinary nature, viz. :—

Sale of the hull of the steam dredger	-	-	-	-	£821	11	4
Proceeds of sale of jewellery, &c., deposited in the Monte di Pietà,							
during the plague	-	-	-	-	183	15	0
Sale of dilapidated houses	-	-	-	-	94	0	0
Quarantine dues	-	-	-	-	404	1	1
					£1,503	7	5

and the subsidy from the Imperial Treasury for dredging the harbours, viz., 2,590*l.*, which did form an item in the receipts of 1857. Deducting these items, the increase of receipts in 1858 over those in 1857 would be in round numbers 5,003*l.*, of which 4,530*l.* are under the head of customs.

3. The following provision was made for the expenditure of the year :—

	£	s.	d.
By general estimates	-	-	-
„ Supplemental estimates	-	-	-
„ Unexpended balances of former years, reserved under the authority of the Secretary of State	-	-	-
Balance of the proceeds of the sale of certain building sites, set apart for disoccupation of places abutting on the fortifications	-	-	-
Total provision	-	-	-

4. The actual expenditure of the year was 129,780*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* leaving a difference of 12,601*l.* 18*s.* 8*½d.* in favour of the revenue. This balance is partly attributable to the extraordinary receipts above mentioned, the comparative diminution in dredging

R

MALTA.

expenses in consequence of the defective state of the steam dredger, and to the change in the mode of meeting the deficiencies in the estimates, namely, by special advances to be brought to account in the following year instead of by adjustment from savings in the current year.

5. The financial condition of Malta at the close of 1858 is clearly shown by the following statement:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total receipts—Local	142,350	1	8½			
Agent	32	8	8			
				142,382	10	4½
Total expenditure—Local	£126,239	17	4			
Agent	3,540	14	4			
				129,780	11	8
Balance in favour of revenue	-	-	-	£12,601	18	8½
Add surplus capital on 1st January 1858—						
Local	£43,260	19	11½			
Agent	696	6	7			
				43,957	6	6½
Surplus capital on 31st December 1858	-	-	-	£56,559	5	3½
Deduct:—						
Balance of proceeds of sale of certain building sites for a special purpose	2,496	6	9			
Balance of special services under the direction of the Secretary of State, reserved under the express directions of His Excellency the Governor	265	14	2½			
The moiety of the balance of dredging services, which is due to the Imperial Government	1,128	16	10½			
Amount required to meet expenses incurred in 1858, under special advances to be brought to account in 1859	2,842	14	7½			
				6,733	12	5½
Available surplus on 1st January 1859	-	-	-	£49,825	12	9½

6. The following statement shows the condition of the annual provision made for dredging the harbours, in equal parts of 2,500*l.* each from the local revenue and the Imperial funds:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Provision from Imperial Government in 1856	£2,500					
in 1858	2,500					
	5,000	0	0			
Provision from local revenue in 1857	£2,500					
in 1858	2,500					
	5,000	0	0	10,000	0	0
Expenditure in 1857 (the dredging services under the joint provision having commenced in 1857, the sum received in 1856 from Imperial funds is carried to the account of that year)	5,106	15	0			
Expenditure in 1858 (deducting 40 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> , being for services not properly chargeable against the joint provision for dredging)	2,635	11	2½			
				7,742	6	2½
Balance unavailable at close of 1858	-	-	-	£2,257	13	9½

The moiety of which balance is held to the credit of the Imperial Government towards the expense of dredging service in 1859.

7. The estimates for 1858 were framed before it was intimated that the sums provided in the estimates for the year should not be available after its expiration, and it was consequently necessary to meet many of the expenses for 1858 from unexpended balances of former years.

Lists of these balances were forwarded to the Secretary of State and received his sanction. In the present year provision is made for services on works not included in the general estimates by supplemental votes, by which means the expenditure of the year will be brought to bear more direct reference to the estimates. The only exception to this arrangement is a balance of 265*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.* under the head of Special Services, under direction of the Secretary of State, which have been reserved for 1859 by express directions of his Excellency the Governor.

8. It must also be observed, that prior to 1858 it was the practice in Malta to close the Agent General's accounts on the 30th of September. In the financial statements for 1858 they are closed on the 1st of December, in accordance with the spirit of the Treasury instructions on the subject. The Agent General's accounts, therefore, for the last quarter of 1857 are not included in the above return of the expenditure of the year, and an abstract is appended showing the amount expended by the Agent General in that period, and the classification of the items.

AGENT GENERAL'S ACCOUNT of EXPENDITURE from 1st October to
31st December 1857.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments—Agent General	-	-	65 12 6			
„ Sundry Services	-	-	9 4 4			
				74	16	10
Pensions	-	-	-	1,084	16	5
Education (exclusive of establishments)	-	-	-	24	6	11
Miscellaneous Services—Fire engine*	-	-	86 14 0			
„ Letters Patent†	-	-	1 10 0			
				88	4	0
Special services under the direction of the Secretary of State :—						
Microscope ‡	-	-	50 0 0			
Printing presses‡	-	-	23 18 4			
				73	18	4
				<u>£1,346</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

The receipts, however, in 1858 are sufficient to cover the above-mentioned expenditure in addition to the total expenditure of the year.

(Signed) R. C. LEGH,
Auditor General.

To his Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

March 30th, 1859.

* Voted in 1857.

† Refunded in Malta.

‡ Sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

IONIAN
ISLANDS.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Lord High Commissioner to his Grace
the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 168.)

MY LORD DUKE,

Corfu, December 19, 1859.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Report on the Blue Book of 1858.

2. I regret that there should have been so long a delay in furnishing your Grace with this document. It is owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining from the different custom houses of the Islands the detailed returns, which appear for the first time in the Blue Book of 1858. These were not complete till the beginning of November, when Mr. Wolff, whose duty it is to prepare the Report, was forced to repair to England, and to delay the preparation of the documents till his return.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. K. STORKS.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the Financial Year 1858, ending 31st January 1859.

REVENUE.

Increase.

The revenue of 1858 shows a rich and unprecedented increase in the resources of the Ionian States. Compared with the year immediately preceding, which produced a revenue of 110,310*l.*, the increase of 1858 may be considered as extraordinary. The surplus of 1858 is only 20,000*l.* short of the double of the income of 1857; and the gross income of 1858, 201,275*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, is equal to more than two-thirds of the aggregate income produced in the preceding biennium of 1856 and 1857, those years having shown an increase of 29,507*l.* over the biennium 1854-1855.

The augmentation thus obtained in 1858 is principally owing to the increase in the export duty on the oil, which, as was contemplated in the Report on the Blue Book of 1857, has amply compensated for the deficiency in the revenue of that year. Out of the total increase of 90,964*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the export duty on olive oil alone gives an item of 69,956*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The increased amount of export duties on currants, wines, and other island produce is comparatively trifling; but the prosperity indirectly resulting from the magnificent oil crop is sufficiently demonstrated by the increasing revenue derived from customs and import duties. The only items of decrease worthy of notice are the slight diminution of 188*l.* on the import duties on foreign wines and spirits, the result of an improved system of manufacture in the islands, and a falling off in the postal revenue, attributed to a reduction in the post office tariff.

EXPENDITURE.

Increase.

In the items of increased expenditure is to be found 12,000*l.*, the difference between 19,000*l.* and 31,000*l.*, for the military contribution, as in the year 1858, was paid not only the fixed annual sum of 25,000*l.*, but the arrears of the former year, amounting to 6,000*l.*

An increase also appears under the heads of "Civil and Judicial Establishments," as voted in the Session of 1857, under the head "Education," owing to an augmentation in the number of "Schoolmasters," under that of Public Works, for expenses incurred in sanitary improvements at Corfu, and also under the head of "Packet Service," for the cost of repairs to the Ionian steamer.

The increase in the contingent expenditure arises principally from the payment of an indemnity for property purchased by the Government in the Fort of Santa Maura, and from the cost of translating codes; exceptional and extraordinary expenses. When it is observed, however, that this extraordinary outlay, amounting to more than 2,000*l.*, has

produced an increase under the contingent head of expenditure of only 445*l.*, it may be seen that a considerable permanent saving has been effected.

IONIAN
ISLANDS.

Decrease.

The only item worthy of remark is that of 825*l.*, under the head Legislative Assembly ; that body having sat only five days in the course of this financial year.

Local Revenues.

The local revenues which, as pointed out in the Report of last year, are subject to the same fluctuations as the general income, show an increase of 9,593*l.*, from 29,960*l.* to 39,553*l.*

The roads' duties, viz., a tax of 1½ per cent. ad valorem on exports, is nearly doubled ; the income derived from this source being in 1857 6,374*l.*, in 1858 13,032*l.* The revenue from municipal lands has shown a favourable change, having arisen from 3,946*l.* in 1857, to 8,577*l.* in 1858. Much, however, has yet to be effected in the collection of the municipal revenues derived from this latter branch, and it is thought that a thorough survey of the municipal property and a fair estimation of its value would go far to replenish the municipal chest.

The increase in the inter-insular duty on native spirits and wines, points out the cause of the decrease before noticed in the import duties on those of foreign manufacture, and is a favourable indication of the progress of the Islands in this particular.

The export duty on soap from Zante, and the fees on arm licences, show, by their increase, the augmented activity of Ionian manufactures, and an advance in the general prosperity of the Islands for this year.

Decrease.

A considerable decrease is to be observed in the produce of the salines and the salt monopoly. This is owing to two causes, viz., the high price of salt in 1857, occasioned by a great demand for that article at the close of the war with Russia, and the failure of the salt crop in 1858 in Santa Maura.

Local Expenditure.

While the revenue has been on the increase, the local expenditure shows a saving on the preceding year of 4,054*l.*, and this in the most satisfactory manner. A large saving has been effected in the interest on loans and other incidental expenses, while an increase may be found in the items "Salaries of Establishments," "Hospitals and Charities," and in other legitimate modes of applying public money.

Public Debt.

The public debt, at the end of the financial year 1856, had amounted to 230,486*l.*, at the close of the financial year 1857 to 241,427*l.* At the close of the year 1858 it was reduced to 213,661*l.*, the payment of a debt of 16,000*l.* to the Ionian bank, and of 8,000*l.* to Messrs. Glyn & Co., forming the principal items of reduction.

Military Contribution.

The whole sum of 25,000*l.*, contributed by the Ionian Government annually for military protection, was paid in the year 1858, together with the arrears left unpaid in the preceding year amounting to 6,000*l.*

Population.

The year 1858 shows under this head an increase of 1,940 males and 801 females, a gross increase of 2,741.

This is doubtless owing to the prosperity of the year, which has obviated the necessity of temporary emigration. A decrease in mortality, and an increase in the number of marriages and births, is also a satisfactory phase of the social condition of the Islands in this year.

Education.

The number of scholars in the different schools and places of education in the islands exhibits a total increase of *six hundred and ninety-two* male and female ; but it is observed that out of this number the students of a higher order bear a very slight proportion.

IONIAN
ISLANDS.

The University, which in the time of Lord Guilford held a great position, and attracted a large number of scholars, now boasts only 47 matriculated students. Nor can this be wondered at. In Lord Guilford's time the University received from his private income a large annual subsidy, in addition to the sum granted by Government for its support.

No Educational Establishment existed at Athens, and the facilities of access to Continental Universities were rare. Since that time the independence of Greece has enabled that country to maintain a University of its own, which has attracted a great proportion of the youth of these islands.

Moreover, a legacy amounting to more than 2,000*l.* a year, bequeathed in 1840, for the purpose of promoting the education of Ionian youth in foreign establishments, has gone far to provide for them a higher course of gratuitous instruction than can be obtained, with its limited resources, in the University of Corfu.

What is really required in the Ionian Islands is a thorough reorganization on a sound and solid basis of the system of primary and secondary education. According to the existing arrangement, the sum voted for public instruction, 12,000*l.*, is diffused into so many different channels, as to produce a result certainly not adequate to the expenditure.

The schoolmasters in country districts are remunerated by salaries so small as to be almost ludicrous, and whenever remedies have been applied they have generally ended in the increase of the number, rather than of the pay and efficiency of teachers.

A Lyceum or public school exists in each Island, and this, carefully maintained, would go far to promote the diffusion of education in these States, by giving a sound course of instruction to those not destined for a learned profession, or by procuring good places for those who may afterwards wish to complete their studies in a foreign University.

Imports and Exports.

The aggregate imports of the year 1858 amount to the sum of 1,323,808*l.* 5*s.*, showing an increase of 231,757*l.*; and the exports to 972,474*l.* 14*s.*, showing an augmentation of 200,836*l.*

The absence of specific returns in the Blue Book of 1857 is now supplied, and in a future Report it will be attempted to enter into some comparative examination of the fluctuations of trade.

Agriculture.

The very full description given in the last Blue Book of the agricultural state of the Islands, obviates the necessity of any extended remark on this subject in the present Report.

It need only be observed, that the returns of 1858 exhibit a gradual improvement, both in agriculture and manufactures; nevertheless it must be regretted that a large quantity of land, particularly in the Island of Corfu, still lies waste and uncultivated.

Legislation.

An extraordinary Session of the Legislature was opened on the 25th of January, six days before the expiration of the past financial year. No Legislative Act was passed.

Gaols, &c.

The total number of prisoners in confinement during the present year shows considerable diminution, the natural consequence of an increased amount of labour and prosperity.

General.

The year 1858 is, however, as has been before stated, without precedent, and although it is satisfactory to observe that the resources of the islands maintain a gradual progress, the abundance with which they have been favoured in 1858 can by no means be taken as a criterion of their future fortunes.

Palace, Corfu,
December 10, 1859.

H. DRUMMOND WOLFF,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

HELIGOLAND.

HELI-
GOLAND.

[No Report has been received.]

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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ISLANDS.

No. 23.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MOORE to the Right Honourable
SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart, M.P.

(No. 9.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
6th February 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herein the Blue Book for the year 1858.

2. The past year has, I believe, forwarded in great measure the objects for which the colonization of the islands was originally established, and as a necessary consequence the interests of the settlers.

3. The arrival of the small garrison in January relieved the government from the inconvenience of having no force wherewith (if necessary) to compel obedience to law on the part of unruly crews of merchant vessels, and the possibly serious consequences which might at any moment have flowed from such a state of things. Nor was this a danger purely imaginary. Within eight months after the arrival of the garrison, a British ship put in here with her whole crew in a state of open and pertinacious mutiny, followed by a riot on shore when the law was put in force. Nothing but the hopelessness of resistance to the power of the government reduced the men to submission. But if that power had been limited as before to a single constable with such aid as he might casually pick up, it is hardly probable that the law could have been carried out without serious embarrassment, and certainly the government could not have afforded to the master the efficient aid he came here to seek.

4. I am glad to report that the men seem well satisfied with their position. They have made great advances in the cultivation of their gardens; their children readily obtain the employment suited to their age, the younger ones attend the school regularly, and all may, if they choose, save sufficient money to better their position by employing their leisure hours in the work which is always abundant in a young colony.

5. With respect to the school, it is my intention, in conjunction with the commanding officer of the garrison, to submit a plan for the employment of a schoolmistress. At present there are 32 boys and 30 girls, who are all in the charge of an old pensioner of the marines; but I apprehend that great advantage would be gained if the girls were placed under the charge of a respectable woman, who might teach needlework and the duties of a household in addition to reading and writing. I allude to this subject here as the enclosed tables show the facts which I think justify my opinion, but I shall reserve the details for a separate despatch by the next mail. In the meanwhile it is agreeable to note that no objection is entertained against the school on the score of religious principles, but that children of parents who belong to the churches of England, Rome, and Scotland attend equally with the children of Dissenters.

6. The tables called "Agriculture," also show a most satisfactory progress. In Stanley the amount of ground reclaimed for horticulture has increased to twenty acres, in which a very fair quantity of produce is raised which meets a ready sale in the colony and among shipping. But the increase of sheep is the most gratifying, as it must silence at once all the objections raised against sheep farming as unsuited to the climate. There are now nearly eight thousand sheep in this island, the greater part of which belong to the Cheviot and Southdown breeds. The old South American long-legged sheep are dying out. The carcasses, averaging 65lbs. each, find a good market in Stanley; and I am

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FAULKLAND
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informed that the last wool sent home commanded a very remunerative price in the London market. Sheep bid fair to become one of the staple commodities of the island, and they will occupy lands which are not suitable for horned cattle.

7. The advantages of the port in a long voyage were fully illustrated a few days ago on the occasion of the visit of the "Thames City," a freight ship, having on board 120 officers and men (many with their wives and families) bound round Cape Horn to British Columbia. She obtained a supply of fresh water-ballast necessary for the trim of the ship, and fresh meat. The soldiers obtained for themselves and their families bread, milk, vegetables, and many articles of comfort, and enjoyed, what was equally necessary in so crowded a vessel, several days on shore before encountering the most stormy part of their long voyage.

8. The land sales during the year amounted to 138*l.*; and two new cattle districts were leased, increasing the land revenue to 80*l.* from long leases, and about 40*l.* from short tenures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS MOORE, Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.,
 &c. &c. &c.

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THE
REPORTS

*Made for the Year 1858 to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies ;
in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British
Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1858.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES ;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA ;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND ;
EASTERN COLONIES ;
MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1860.



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